

THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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CALCUTTA:—MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1891.

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Summary of News.

Monday, 14th December.

FROM the chief centres of rice-supply in Lower Bengal, it is reported that only half of the crops are expected to be gathered. In some parts, scarcity has already appeared.

THE *Pioneer* would like to see the Government rule that any tea-garden in Assam in which coolies were ill-treated or ill-paid, should be refused a further supply of labour, a business which the Allahabad paper wishes to be placed under Government management.

THE *Indian Daily News* says:—"Mrs. Grimwood's story of her life at Manipore, and in particular her description of the Senapaty, who became Jubraj after the Maharajah's deposition (or abdication), will serve to strengthen the feeling that a great mistake was made by the Government permitting itself to be influenced so completely by the representations of the Maharajah in Calcutta and the counsel of Mr. Quinton, without giving adequate attention to, almost without ascertaining, the views of Mr. Grimwood, who, unless he were wholly out of place in the position he held, was the person of all others most competent to advise. Mrs. Grimwood speaks of the Senapaty as not only the most manly and capable of the Princes, but as possessed of a considerable share of kindly and courteous feeling."

A QUESTION has arisen which suggests that troubles are likely to occur from time to time until the boundary between Burmah and China is authoritatively demarcated. Telegraphing from Rangoon, a correspondent mentions that the Chinese authorities have expressed annoyance and alarm at the establishment of a military police post on the Nampaung river, in the neighbourhood of Momein. The *Wagon of Momein*, it appears, has written to the British Deputy Commissioner asking that the post should be withdrawn, as the people construe its occupation into an invasion of Chinese territory. The Deputy Commissioner replied that he could not withdraw the post, which was established by order of the Government, and after communication with the Peking authorities on the subject. He also dwelt on the advantage to Chinese trade caravans visiting the Shan and Burmese marts from having the route protected by the British posts at Nampaung and Maunaung. The correspondence is said to have been carried on in the most friendly tone; but the strength of the Nampaung post has been increased to 200 men, and there is talk of reinforcements being sent from Bharo.

THERE is not likely to be a meeting of the Viceroy's Legislative Council before January, the programme for the Session not having been settled yet.

DR. ROBERTSON is carrying on the political duties with the expeditionary force advancing into the Hunza Valley, Colonel Durand being for a time incapacitated from active work, in consequence of his wound. News has been received from the Gilgi frontier, dated 7th instant, that the wounded officers have been removed from Nilt to Chalt and are doing well. No further casualties had occurred, and the force had not advanced beyond Nilt on the date mentioned. No signs of restlessness had declared themselves among the tribesmen outside the Hunza and Magar Valleys, and Dr. Robertson has reported everything satisfactory in connection with them.

AN eminent statistician of Germany has recently given out the following as general facts, proved by vital statistics:—The average length of life is thirty-seven years. Twenty-five per cent of mankind die before attaining the age of seventeen. Of 1,000 persons, only one reaches the age of 100 years, and six that of sixty-five years, 3,214,000 die every year, 96,480 every day, 4,020 every hour, 67 every minute. The births amount to 36,712,000 every year, 100,800 every day, 4,200 every hour, 70 every minute. Married people live longer than the uncivilised. Tall persons enjoy a greater longevity than small ones. Women have a more favourable chance of life before reaching their fiftieth year than men, but a less favourable one after that period. The proportion of married persons to single ones is as 75 to 100. Persons born in spring have a more robust constitution than those born at any other season. Births and deaths occur more frequently at night than in the day time.

Tuesday, 15th December.

HIS Highness Aga Akbar Shah, third and youngest son of the late Aga Khan, has been appointed Sheriff of Bombay for the ensuing year, commencing on the 20th instant. The eldest son, Aga Ali Shah, having been head of the family and spiritual guide of the Khojas, died some years ago, and was succeeded in the office by his only son, His Highness Aga Sultan Mahomed Shah. The present senior member of the family is His Highness Aga Jenghi Shah, elder brother of Aga Akbar Shah, whose appointment of Sheriff is certain (a Bombay paper says) to give satisfaction to the Mahomedan community.

THE Lahore paper says:—"The first place in the recent competitive examination for appointment to the post of Extra Assistant Commissioner (in the Punjab) has been won by a Mahomedan candidate, Sheikh Vasaddak Hossein, B. A., a member of the well known family of Ansari Sheikhs of Paniput. And not only so, but five of the first six places in the competition were, we understand, taken by Mahomedan candidates. Their successes should be very encouraging to those interested in the cause of Mahomedan education."

IN pursuance of a proclamation previously issued, the Lahore Court has ordered the confiscation of a Native paper, charged with libel. It now appears that the accused has no property at Lahore. In consequence of this case, the respectable natives of Lahore are said to purpose sending a petition to Government that no Native be allowed to start a newspaper unless he has two thousand rupees' worth of landed property in India as a guarantee against reckless libel. Absurd!

SIR Charles Dilke is supposed to be the author of the letters on army administration signed "Vetus" in the *Times*.

IT is stated that the seat lately vacant on the Calcutta Board of Revenue on the Opium side, was offered to, but declined by, Mr. Rivett Carnac, C.I.E., the Opium Agent of Benares.

IT is perhaps within the recollection of our readers that a few months before the Municipal Corporation of Bombay appealed to the Government of India against the decision of the Government of Bombay to levy and increase Contribution on account of Police charges. The Government of India has thought fit to uphold the decision of the local Government. In such matters we can expect no justice from the Supreme Government as against the Local Government, because it is quite evident that if the prayer of the Bombay Corporation were granted, the Government of Bombay would have moved the Government of India to increase their Provincial grant for Police. The whole system of adjusting financial burdens between the Supreme, Provincial and Local Governments is faulty and until that is placed on a just basis local governing bodies cannot expect to be fairly treated.—*Maharatta*.

A BOMBAY paper writes:—"The representative of the Bombay Presidency in the Viceregal Legislative Council—the Hon. Mr. Nugent—has just left for Calcutta to resume his legislative functions. During the last sessions of the Council Mr. Nugent did distinguished service in several directions—notably in connection with Factory Legislation and the Age of Consent Bill. His views, which were in harmony alike with those of the Local Government and with enlightened public opinion on this side of India, were expressed with singular independence and clearness of diction, and displayed a statesmanlike grasp of the questions involved. His manly outspokenness contributed in a large measure to save India from the oppressive industrial legislation in which a mischievous agitation initiated and fanned by selfishness under the garb of philanthropy seemed at one time to be only too likely to end. The public have every reason to believe that the broad sympathies, the ripe judgment, the keen sense of justice, the mastery of detail, and the varied experience of the Member for Bombay will not fail to be of high service in the Council Chamber."

MR. Stanhope, the Secretary of State for War, speaking at Hammersmith, said that the attacks recently made on the condition of British Army were overdrawn. England's military power, he declared, was greater than ever.

Wednesday, 16th December.

A MODEL farm is to be established in Goa at a place to be chosen by a special committee appointed for the purpose.

IT has been officially announced that Lord Dufferin succeeds the late Lord Lytton as British Ambassador at Paris.

A CONFERENCE attended by four hundred rural delegates recently assembled in London under the auspices of Mr. Schnadhorst for the purpose of discussing the reform of the Land and Poor Laws, the Magistracy, and Disestablishment of the Anglican Church. Speaking at a breakfast given to the Delegates (Dec. 11) Mr. Gladstone declared that the amelioration of the labourers was a question of urgency. He desired to see an increase of rural candidates in Parliament, and the payment of electoral expenses by the country. He was in favour of a fairer division of rates, and of giving power to the local authorities to acquire land for allotments, and he also advocated the formation of Village Councils. He admitted the right of labourers to combine in order to increase the rate of wages.

AFTER a stormy debate the French Chamber of Deputies has rejected by a majority of one hundred and sixty-five the motion proposed by M. Hubbard for the separation of Church and State. The Chamber also passed a vote of confidence in the Government.

NOTHING has yet been settled regarding the exact sums to be expended upon Indian Railways next year, but we (*Englishman*) believe that the total sum, approximately speaking, may be set down at not less than 40 lakhs of rupees. Of this amount about a third is likely to be allotted to the East Coast Railway, while open lines and strategical lines are each likely to cost about seventy lakhs. It is probable that thirty lakhs may be assigned to the Burma railways, thirty lakhs to the Godhra-Rutlam, thirty to the Gauhati-Numding, twenty-five to the Lucknow-Jaunpur fifteen to the Dharmavaram-Hindupur, and three and a-half lakhs to the Barsoe-Kissengunj. These figures, however, are, still, it should be remembered, subject to alteration, and no actuals are likely to be settled before the close of the year.

THERE is a petition pending in the District Court of Tinnevely for legal conjunction or separation under the Hindu Marriage Dissolution Act. It is registered as an Original Suit. The parties concerned are an Iyenger convert and his Brahmin wife. In 1883, the Iyenger boy married the girl. In 1885 or so, he became a convert to Christianity. The girl has attained age. But the marriage has not been consummated. On 30th ultimo, the case was heard. The lady was present in Court. The parties were allowed to interview each other in the Judge's chamber. The defendant was reluctant to obey the orders of the Judge to go to the chamber to meet her husband. The Judge himself had to descend from the bench and had to press her to go to the chamber. She sternly refused to become a convert and join her husband when exhorted to do so by him. The case stands adjourned.—*Hindu*.

PREMCHAND Roychand Scholarships.—The Syndicate in their meeting on Saturday have awarded three full scholarships of Rs. 8,000 each, to Mr. Wheeler, Babus Janaki Nath Bhattacharjee and Hirendra Nath Dutt.

THE Mahomedan Conference this year will be held at Aligarh on the 27th, 28th, and 29th instant.

THERE is some talk that the publication of Mrs. Grimwood's new book will give rise to another Manipore debate in Parliament.

SIR Edward Buck, who was deputed from Simla to inquire into the cause of the recent famine in Rajputana, during his stay in Ajmere, inspected the relief works, and made minute inquiries as to the condition of the rustics in Ajmere and the adjoining Districts.

AT an interesting meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, London, Mr. Littledale read a paper on the Pamirs. Several members of the Russian Embassy were present. During the discussion that followed, General Richard Strachey took an opportunity to denounce the unreasonableness of the view that the Pamirs were either worth fighting about or coveting. It was only another astonishing illustration, General Strachey said, of human folly.

Thursday, 17th December.

THEIR Lordships J. J. Parker and Shepherd of the Madras High Court the other day disposed of an appeal which has an important bearing upon many of the Native Funds now in existence in various parts of that Presidency. The appellant was a member of a Native Fund at Sholinghur, which consisted of 300 members, each of whom had to pay Rs. 1-4 per mensem. At the close of each month, the subscriptions were collected and a prize of Rs. 50 drawn, the drawer at once retiring from the Fund. This was repeated for forty months, the number of subscribers being reduced monthly by one. At this period, the last drawer having been paid Rs. 50, the Fund was closed, the principal accumulated being divided among the remaining 260 members, and the interest accruing thereon by lending to out-subscribers and others on interest being divided among the Directors as remuneration. The appellant had borrowed Rs. 50, and having become a defaulter, was sued for arrears of subscription and interest on the loan, in the court of the District Munsiff at Sholinghur with result that a decree for the amount due was given against the appellant. The appellant put in a civil revision petition to the High Court, and Mr. Sankara Narayana Sastry, Vakil, who appeared for the appellant, contended that the Fund in question, according to its working, was a lottery and as such, not only came within the penal provisions of the Penal Code, but it was against public policy for the courts to pass decrees upon claims made by such Funds. Their Lordships, acquiescing in these views, directed the dismissal of the suit against the plaintiff-appellant in the lower court with costs.

SPEAKING of the attitude of the Calcutta bar towards Mr. Rattigan, in the Diamond Case, the *Civil and Military Gazette* says:—"In order to avoid misapprehension, it may be stated that the Hon'ble Mr. Rattigan, having on the morning after the trial received an assurance from several leading members of the Calcutta Bar, that he was completely misinformed as to the disapproval of the Bar to his appearing for Mr. Jacob, and having subsequently received formal written confirmation of this assurance from the entire Bar, he was asked by his leader, Mr. Inverarity, and pressed by Mr. Jacob to remain at Calcutta as consulting Counsel. To this he consented, and only left Calcutta when the Nizam's commission having been rejected, and Mr. Abid's evidence having been taken, all practical interest in the trial had virtually ceased. With regard to the assurance given in writing on the part of the Calcutta Bar, we learn, by a telegram from Allahabad, that it distinctly stated that the members had never assumed any attitude in the matter, which could have justified the information being given to him on which he felt himself compelled to act; that they would have welcomed him as they welcomed Mr. Inverarity of the Bombay Bar; that they in no way disapproved of his being brought down; and that his action in accepting the brief in the case was not, and is not, regarded by them as involving a breach of professional etiquette, or as being in any way objectionable."

Six of the principal men among the Benares rioters who had their sentences considerably reduced by the Allahabad High Court on appeal, will shortly be released by the clemency of the Government after five months' imprisonment. Among these are Sulchnandan, Gobardhan Dass, Gopal Dass, Rameshwar Datt, Roghunath Dass, and Luchman Dass. All of them are men of respectable position and high caste, their share in the riots being confined to the Bhadaini temple, and having nothing to do with the attacks on property that followed.

On November 26, Dr. Gholab Shah, of Cabul, Afghanistan, was married according to the rites of Mahomedan faith to Hannah Bodda Robinson, widow of the late Mr. Spencer Robinson, who for many years held Government appointments in India. The bridegroom is the eldest son of the late Sheikh Mahomed, chief of an Afghan hill tribe, and during the last Afghan war took part in many engagements. He was attired for the ceremony in the picturesque Afghan cap, flowing turban, and other characteristic garments. The bride was dressed in travelling costume. The ceremony was performed in accordance with the Moslem law, both parties being Mahomedans, the bride and her family having embraced that religion some months ago. About thirty Mahomedans of the local congregation were present. The bride and bridegroom afterwards left for London en route for Constantinople, where they will reside.

THE *Figaro* declares it has discovered that in the event of a Franco-German war Italy will concentrate 200,000 men on the Alpine frontier, the fleet creating a diversion on the Algerian and Corsican coasts. If there were a Franco-Italian war Germany would mobilise three army corps and cross the Vosges frontier.

Friday, 18th December.

THE *Sheffield Telegraph's* London correspondent writing on November 24, says:—"I regret to learn on very good authority, that Mr. Gladstone's failing health has become a source of serious anxiety to his people. He is not suffering from any acute or definable form of illness, but from the rapidly increasing feebleness of old age. He has never been the same man since his influenza attack. It sapped the wonderful vitality that for so long gave him physical buoyancy far surpassing what might have been expected of one who has had eighty-two years of hard-work on earth. As I pointed out last session, Mr. Gladstone's appearance altered much for the worse after his illness. Since Parliament broke up he has become weaker instead of stronger, and the precautions for his health have been redoubled. The trip he is about to take to the Mediterranean is regarded as a precaution against the severities of a British winter, which his enfeebled frame can no longer resist. If he does not gain increased strength in this journey, it will be no surprise should his final retirement from public life be announced at an early date."

By order of the Governor-General in Council, the Commissioner of Revenue and Circuit of the Chota Nagpur Division for the time being is appointed to exercise the powers of a Political Agent for the States of Sirguja, Udaipur, Jashpur, Gangpur, Bonai, Korra, Chang Bhakar, Seraikela, Kharsowan, Kera, and Anandapur.

It is announced that His Excellency the Governor-General in Council has been pleased to permit the M. As. and holders of corresponding degrees in the other faculties of the University to elect two of their number to be Fellows, subject to the approval of His Excellency the Chancellor.

THE two missing records, in what is known as the Dacca bribery case, have been found in a small box in which they had been originally deposited. The box was in the record room of the Calcutta High Court, where it must have been replaced by the thief or one of his accomplices.

On Wednesday last His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor accompanied by Mr. Lee, the Chairman, the engineer, and other officers of the Corporation visited the New Central Road, and particularly inspected the portion yet to be completed between Chitpore Road to Clive Street. This is the most difficult and costly part of the road, as it cuts the heart of Burra Bazar. Mr. Lee explained the progress of the work and the difficulties that had been overcome, leaving only this small part to be completed. His Honor seemed satisfied with what he saw, and the way in which the proceedings had been carried out under Mr. Lee's supervision.

THE influenza seems to have once more availed itself of the early days of winter to secure a firm grip on every European capital. It is either 'raging' or steadily increasing in Berlin, Vienna, Paris, London, Edinburgh, and other places. People are undoubtedly beginning to fear that the dread malady may in future be looked for every year. The prospect is an unpleasant one. This is its third annual appearance. It broke out, as Professor Gerhardt, of Berlin, has recently said, in Bokhara in May, 1889, overran Russia in Asia till it reached St. Petersburg, whence its dissemination throughout Europe was speedy and complete. No one realised at first what an alarming disease influenza is but those who have been attacked—and the number must by this time include the great majority of the world's inhabitants—can only regard its return with a shudder. Doctors have yet to discover a specific against it. Its appearance on previous occasions has brought misery to thousands and fortunes to quacks with so-called preventives. Unfortunately doctors themselves are as largely victims to the epidemic as the ordinary public.

FINANCIAL difficulties in Portugal, writes a Java paper, have prompted suggestions looking to the sale of her colonial possessions. Those in the East comprise Timor and Dilly. Timor is about the size of Holland, the eastern half being held by Portugal and the other half by Holland. Timor lies near Australia and the plant world presents more Australian characteristics than Asiatic ones. The Portuguese section of the island produces coffee and might yield more with proper cultivation. Sandalwood is largely exported to China; the country produces an excellent breed of horses; and Dilly bears the reputation of being a good port. Minerals have been found there, but hardly anything has been done so far towards working the mines. The value of Portuguese Timor and the probability of its falling into the hands of another foreign power should Portugal dispose of her rights there prompt the suggestion that Holland should take advantage of the first opportunity to acquire possession of the eastern half of the island.

Saturday, 19th December.

THE *Madras Mail* learns "from a reliable source" that a compromise between the Nizam and Abdul Huq was effected on the 22nd ultimo. "The main conditions are that Abdul Huq pays over to the Nizam's Government twenty-seven lakhs of rupees, and yields up to the same Government half of the share in the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railway now held by him. In consideration of this amicable settlement of what threatened to be a long and weary lawsuit, the Sirdar, who was suspended from the post of Home Secretary has had such suspension cancelled, and has been allowed to formally resign. The signatures of both parties to compromise now only await the return of the draft which, we understand, has been submitted to the Government of India in the Foreign Department."

LORD Wenlock, who arrived at Madras from Calcutta on the 12th instant, left there again by train on the 18th for Bellary, where he was expected to remain two days, thence proceeding to Kurnool and Cuddappah, returning to Madras on Christmas morning. The object of the tour is to confer with the Collectors regarding the apprehended famine, and to ascertain the cause of the Kurnool riots, into which the Inspector-General of Police is inquiring.

COLONEL Olcott arrived at Colombo from Japan on Nov. 30. The Colonel returns after an absence of some months to the East, having spent the time in Europe and America. The Colonel reached Japan some hours after the terrible earthquakes recently experienced there and found the people in great perturbation. The object of his visit to Japan was to bring about the blending of the two churches of Buddhism and the High Priests of the different sects of Buddhism in Japan conferred with the Colonel on the subject while the declaration already signed by the High Priests of the Southern Church was also signed by the High Priests of the Northern Church, and so far Colonel Olcott has successfully carried out his object in bringing the two churches into closer kinship and reconciliation, an object which no council or individual has either attempted or succeeded in doing before. Colonel Olcott will remain at Colombo for a short time and will then proceed to Madras in time for the Annual Conference of Theosophists.

THE *Novoe Vremya* gives details of the Pamir expedition and says:—"Yanoff crossed the Hindu Kush to the sources of the Indus," meaning, it is presumed, the Yassin river. The *Times* publishes this without even a query or note of admiration. The *Novoe Vremya's* article proceeds:—"On the return journey the expedition came across Captain Younghusband. This officer, whom the Russians found personally most amiable, had managed to surround himself with a number of comforts. The elegance with which his tent was fitted up formed a strong contrast to the Spartan simplicity of the Russian column. When asked if he had a permit to travel in Russian territory, he replied that he had not. He was therefore forced to return to Kashgar. This contretemps, however, in no degree impaired the good relations existing between him and the Russians. Captain Younghusband pledged his word of honour to observe the instructions of Colonel Yanoff, and the two expeditions took leave of one another in the most friendly manner possible. On the Alichur river the whole expedition again re-assembled, and here met Lieutenant Davison, who also had no passport for Russian territory."

THE following is the official account of Lord Lytton's death in Paris:—"His Lordship had been ailing for the past twelve months, and had been treated from time to time for an internal ailment which developed into acute inflammation of the bladder two months ago in England. This was greatly aggravated by Lord Lytton's undertaking to return to Paris contrary to the advice of his London physicians. He had been attended since his return to Paris by his physician, Dr. Prendergast, in consultation with Professor Guyon. He had made much satisfactory progress, and was so far convalescent as to be able to occupy himself with the affairs of the Embassy. He died quite suddenly while writing a letter. His sudden death came as a great shock to every one around him. While it was known that he was subject to a weak heart, there was no heart disease."

THE explanation given of the illness of the Muni-puri Princes, of whom one, the ex-Maharajah, died the other day, and others have been sick, is that they refused to employ the excellent filtered water with which Calcutta is supplied, and persisted in using the water from a dirty tank near their residence for drinking, bathing, &c. They also it is stated, rejected all offers of medical advice until, the ex-Maharajah having died and the Pucca Senha being very ill, the survivors at last agreed to accept Dr. Raye's treatment.

THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, BOW-BAZAR STREET.)

(SESSION 1891-92.)

LECTURE by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F. C. S., on Monday, the 21st December, at 4-15 P. M.

Subject: Phosphorous, Aresenic, &c., Compounds.—(Continued.)

LECTURE by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F. C. S., on Tuesday, the 22nd Inst., at 4-15 P. M.

Subject: Metallic Compounds of the Alcohol Radicles.

LECTURE by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on Tuesday the 22nd Inst., at 7 P. M.

Subject: Ruhmkorff's Oil; Electric Discharges in Vacua.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRKAR M. D.,

December 19th, 1891.

Honorary Secretary.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1891.

SANITATION IN PURI.

IT may be remembered that in response to an appeal from the Central Executive Committee at Cuttack for subscriptions for the repairs of the great Temple of Juggunath at Puri, a Meeting of some of the leading representatives of the Hindu Community of Calcutta and the Suburbs was held, on 10th May last, at the residence of the late Raj. Rajendra Mullick Bahadur. The attention of the Meeting was incidentally drawn to the subject of sanitation at Puri and to the want of pure drinking water, which the numerous pilgrims who visit Puri all the year round very keenly feel in that locality. The Executive Committee appointed at the meeting were favoured by Babu Jadu Lal Mullick, who himself visited Puri in 1887 and witnessed the great hardships which the pilgrims endure from want of pure drinking water, by being put in possession of the copies of certain reports submitted to Government by Mr. C. T. Metcalfe, the then Commissioner of the Orissa Division, on the Puri Water Supply Scheme. The Committee noticed that the picture drawn by Mr. Metcalfe in his report, in connection with the sanitary condition of Puri, was a pitiable one, and as it was fully endorsed by the personal observations of so reliable an authority as Babu Jadu Lal Mullick, the Committee resolved to make a representation to the Government through their Honorary Secretaries. They submitted a petition in July last to the Government of Bengal, in which they, relying on such authorities as Mr. Metcalfe, Sir W. W. Hunter, the Bishop of Calcutta and Babu Jadu Lal Mullick, insisted on the extremely unhealthy condition of the town of Puri, and the enormous mortality of the pilgrims resorting there annually, caused by the want of pure drinking water and proper food as well as of effective drainage and lairine arrangements, and by the extremely wretched condition of the lodging houses, described as "lairs of disease" and "putrid dens" by Sir W. W. Hunter, in which hundreds of persons were packed for weeks together. They further suggested a means, devised by Babu Jadu Lal Mullick, for raising funds, calculated at three lacks of Rupees, in order to carry out the Water-Supply Scheme of Mr. Metcalfe. The Government were to authorise the issue by the Puri Municipality of a Debenture Loan at 5 per cent. for these three lacks. The loan would be taken up by the general public, to whom a Sinking Fund would be a security for the payment of the loan. The interest and other permanent charges for the maintenance of water-supply might be sufficiently covered by the imposition of a sanitation and water rate, of eight annas per head on pilgrims seeking shelter in licensed Lodging-Houses, and one Rupee per head on permanent Residents in Puri. It was estimated that after disbursement of all necessary expenses, sufficient margin would be left to form a Sinking Fund, to pay off the loan in twenty or thirty years. The petition ended with a prayer that a Commission be appointed by

Government to enquire into the evils complained of, with instructions to report on them and to suggest such remedies as they might deem necessary.

The representation was a most legitimate one, and such as, under the circumstances of the case, the Executive Committee felt it incumbent on them to make. The project propounded was most feasible, as being likely to be least burdensome to all parties. The Bengal Government forwarded the representation to the Commissioner of the Orissa Division for report, who, in his turn, forwarded it to the District Magistrate of Puri, who again forwarded it to the Puri Municipality for their consideration. The Municipal body there met at a special meeting, held on the 16th September, to consider the scheme proposed by the Executive Committee at Calcutta. The Resolution passed in the special meeting goes to say that the Municipality at Puri had already borrowed Rs. 25,000 from Government to improve the drainage system of the town, and that, as they had undertaken the drainage work, they would not make an attempt to take in hand the work of improving the water-supply, and that it did not seem to them prudent to add to the loan just at present. So far as the Puri Municipality have taken up the drainage work in hand, it is no doubt a step in advance. But we are sorry to see the summary and heedless way in which that Municipality has disposed of so vitally important a question as the supply of pure water to the town and the pilgrims. No attempt seems to have been made to understand the extremely feasible character of the project proposed in the Representation, and the fact that the supply of foul and filthy water is a source of imminent danger to the pilgrims requiring prompt interference on the part of the Municipality is completely ignored. Mr. Allen, the District Magistrate of Puri, in submitting the Resolution of the Municipality, writes to say that the theory that the water-supply of Puri is very bad is an exploded one, and that Mr. Metcalfe and the other authorities quoted in the Representation have all been dreamers. At any rate, the state of things is much altered now, and Puri has got 139 public stone wells dotted all over the town, which supplies drinking water to the residents. But Mr. Allen has not the boldness to say that the water of these wells even is in a fit state for drinking, in face of the Sanitary Commissioner's report that there is in some of them rather large amounts of organic matter, while he has to say nothing about the unhealthy condition of the water available for bathing. Babu Jadu Lal Mullick visited Pooree so lately as 1887, and we have his personal testimony to the insanitary condition of the water supply, and in face of such evidence we cannot but regard the statement of Mr. Allen as exaggerated. The Commissioner in submitting both the letter of the Magistrate and the Resolution passed by the Municipality, follows closely the information supplied by Mr. Allen, and says that the real question at issue is one between religion and sanitation. He lays stress on the stone wells containing water fit for drinking, and speaks of the tank water being of the foulest description and spreading disease among the pilgrims. He is further of opinion that no expenditure on an improved water supply will avail to prevent death and disease, unless the pilgrims can be legally prevented from drinking foul or legally compelled to drink pure water. This is a delicate question and though we are anxious to see improvements in sanitation, we strongly deprecate any violence to religious sentiment. The real question at issue is to our mind not between religion and sanitation, but between the want and supply of pure water. The Bengal Government has kindly sent a reply to the Representation made by the Honorary Secretaries to the Executive Committee. It says: "The scheme of water supply alluded to by the Committee, and originally proposed by Mr. Metcalfe, had to be abandoned in 1889 after some correspondence with the Municipality, for want of the necessary funds. Since that time the Sanitary Commissioner, after inspecting the town, has condemned as unfit for use the

water of the Sarnamayi, whence it was proposed to obtain the water-supply of the town under the scheme above referred to, and has concurred with the Civil Surgeon of Puri in recommending a systematic improvement of the wells in the town, the water of which is in his opinion of good quality and fit for human consumption. * * * From the information before the Lieutenant-Governor it does not appear that the question of the Sanitation of the town at Puri is so much one of ordinary water-supply, since the wells are reported to be good, as of preventing the holy tanks resorted to by the pilgrims from being polluted." It is much to be deplored that the very simple prayer of the Committee that a Commission be appointed to enquire into the matter has not been granted. In that case we might have independent evidence to be guided by in coming to some conclusion about the sanitary condition of the town of Puri and the nature of its water supply. It is necessary also that the well water of Puri should be chemically analysed and means devised to preserve the tank-water in proper condition. Two proposals have been suggested by His Honor, either to set apart each tank for a week in turn for the purposes of bathing, the tanks not in use being in the meanwhile dewatered and refilled in rotation, or the tanks might be kept clean, after the manner of a swimming-bath, by a constant stream of water running through them. Sir Charles Elliott, we are further told, hopes to visit Puri in January next, and he asks the Executive Committee to work out some such practical proposal by that time, that, after a local inspection, His Honor may be able to accord his approval of it on the spot.

DISTRICT AND LOCAL BOARDS.

THE working of the District and Local Boards, during the year 1890-91, has been reviewed in an elaborate Resolution of the Bengal Government. At the passing of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act in 1885, doubts were expressed in many quarters, as to how far these Boards would be successful public bodies. But we have in this resolution an expression of opinion by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, based on personal observation and the reports of experienced officers, that there is "everywhere a praiseworthy disposition on the part of the Boards to attend regularly to their duties, and to pay due regard to the wishes of Government and the advice of their Chairmen and professional advisers." He specially commends the work of the Finance Committees of the various Boards, "who" it is said "discharge duties of an important and laborious character, and of a kind which public bodies have not always shown an inclination to attend to in sufficient detail." The Resolution contains extracts from reports submitted by the Commissioners of the various divisions on the working of the District and Local Boards. These unanimously bear testimony to the effective and harmonious working of the District Boards, though some difference of opinion has prevailed respecting the utility of the Local Boards. Mr. Westmacott, the Officiating Commissioner of the Presidency Division, says:—"The Village Union Committees would prove a more efficient agency for carrying out any measures of real Local Self-Government than sub-divisional Local Boards can be. * * * In introducing Self-Government, I would begin with the village as a unit, and gradually get the villagers to combine to support joint-schools; pounds, roads, hospitals, and so work up to subdivisional Boards. In starting with District Boards and working downwards, I think we begin at the wrong end of the chain. I do not however think it too late even now to organise Village Union Committees, and entrust them with local administration under the existing Boards, and if this is done, I feel confident that Self-Government will show a vitality which it has not shown yet." The Commissioners of the Bhagulpore and Dacca Divisions also speak in disparaging terms about the efficiency of the Local Boards. His Honor, however, has felt unwilling to record any final expression of opinion on the incomplete evidence available. The Resolution states:

"The problem of distributing administrative functions between District and Local authorities is one of considerable difficulty and can only be solved by experience. Speaking generally, the Lieutenant-Governor would wish the Local Boards to be treated in a liberal manner and given as extensive powers as circumstances in each case appear to render possible." As for ourselves, we regard any final opinion about the utility or efficiency of the Local Boards to be premature. The present system has been in operation only for five years and some more time must be allowed to elapse for these Local Boards to be initiated into the habits of self Government. Respecting the appointment of Union Committees the Resolution observes: "It is clear, however, that it would be premature to initiate a new administrative departure of this kind before the relations of District and Local Boards have been finally settled and have stood the test of several years' experience." Sir Charles Elliott therefore does not anticipate that any immediate necessity is likely to arise for appointing Union Committees.

In Crissa, it is declared, "the plant of Local Self-Government has not yet been naturalised. Even the educated class has yet to learn that if the people are to manage their own affairs, they, or rather their representatives, must be prepared to subordinate their personal convenience to the public good." This state of affairs is no doubt deplorable, but we trust that if the official elements were to exert themselves in making the object of the Local Self-Government Act understood to the people, they would in no time come to a due sense of their responsibility in the matter.

During 1890-91 there were 38 District Boards, in whom the administration of Local affairs was primarily vested, and 106 Local Boards working in subordination to them. Some of these Boards completed their three years' term of existence during the year, and were reconstituted. The system of election, where brought into operation, is said to have aroused a fair amount of interest. Some of these Boards having been found inconveniently large for actual work, their strength was reduced during last year. Very few meetings were held by the Hoogly, Jessore, Rajshahye, Julpai goori, Nuddea, Khoolna, Mozufferpore, Rungpore and Dacca District Boards. The explanations given have been declared to be unsatisfactory, and the Resolution insists on every District Board holding a meeting at least once a month. In connection with the Local Boards, the number of members was increased in some and reduced in others owing to special causes. No less than 89 Local Boards failed to meet once a month. The explanation generally given is want of business. Mr. Allen, the Chairman of the Puri District Board makes the following pertinent remarks thereon:—"If Local Boards would meet more frequently in order to discuss local requirements, and to prepare schemes for the consideration of the District Boards, instead of leaving the whole initiative with the official Chairman of the District Board, they might become far more useful than they are now." Mr. Toynbee, the Commissioner of Orissa, in approval of these remarks says:—"This is very true. The excuse of no business is a very common one, but it cannot be accepted. The whole object of the existence of the Local Boards is to make work for themselves and the District Boards, by bringing local wants to notice and arranging to meet them in the best possible manner. Thus only can real Local Self-Government exist in more than name."

The measure of representation obtained by different classes on the District Boards corresponds fairly on the whole to the degree of influence which each class commands in the country. In the Local Boards, the Zemindari element, as might be expected, largely predominates, while Government servants, who on District Boards, almost equal the representatives of the Landholders and out-number the Pleader class, are on Local Boards largely out-numbered by both of these classes. The Commissioner of the Presidency Division does not regard it satisfactory that the number of pleaders and mukhtars in the Boards should be great, as such men are seldom really interested in local affairs, and think more

of the pleasures of administration and patronage than of the work which has to be done. It is however a fact too well-known to be insisted upon, that it is the pleader class that supplies the most useful and independent element to the District and Local Boards.

There has been no change in the powers delegated to the Local Boards. They continue to administer the grants for village roads, pounds, ferries and primary education, and in some places, the supervision of dispensaries, sanitation and medical relief is also entrusted to them. The Bankoora Local Board is stated to show a "strange shrinking from responsibility" by objecting to take over money for any purpose. In Howrah and Comillah the Local Boards wish to have their powers enlarged. The Commissioner of Burdwan suggests the delegation of additional powers to all the Local Boards in his division.

The financial results of the year under review have been as a whole satisfactory. The year opened with a large balance, and though the receipts during the year were smaller than in the previous year, the total amount available for expenditure was much above the amount actually spent, which was nearly the same as that spent in the previous year. There is to be noticed an increase of about eighteen thousand rupees in the total realisation under Land Revenue as compared with the previous year, and this is said to be due in some measure to the fact that in the Chittagong Division, certain collections which were last year credited to 'miscellaneous' were treated as Land Revenue in the year under review. The income derived from Road cess declined. In some districts the decrease is ascribed to bad collections, in others to the heavy expenditure incurred in the establishment entertained for revaluation of cess-paying property. The receipts from pounds show increase in some districts and decrease in others, and an increase on the whole. The increase is variously attributed to the larger number of pounds established, to higher bids at auction, to farmers paying in with greater punctuality and to the collection of outstanding balances. The decrease is put down to the high floods of the year which submerged the fields and stopped both cattle trespass and the impounding of cattle, and to some minor causes. The Chairman of the Puri Local Board has very rightly remarked that pounds under direct management bring in practically no income, while those that have been farmed pay something and are better managed. The question of farming pounds has, we are told, formed the subject of correspondence with the Government of India, and the Lieutenant-Governor has now under consideration the necessity of introducing certain safeguards against the abuse of the system by the lessee. There is to be noticed a slight increase in the receipts under education as compared with the previous year. The income from ferries shows considerable rise throughout almost all the Districts. Satisfactory explanations have been offered as to why there has been a decrease in a few of the Districts. The receipts under other heads are about the same as in the previous year and there is nothing remarkable in them.

Turning to expenditure, we find that charges under administration were greater than in the previous year, owing to the creation of new posts, the grant of annual increments to employes, enhanced payments by way of percentage for the establishment of the offices of account and control, and heavier charges for the travelling expenses of the members of the District Boards. The expenditure under pounds was in excess of that incurred during the previous year, while that under education decreased. By offering scholarships of different amounts, by holding out prospects of employment to some and by actually providing employment to others, the Boards appear to have been making very creditable endeavours to promote female medical education in Bengal. If in some cases their efforts have not been successful, it must be remembered that the idea is a new one, and that there is a mass of prejudice to be overcome in working it out. There was considerable increase in the total outlay in connection with the grant of Medical relief. The increase is notice-

able under all the heads and the Boards appear to have done excellent work during the year in affording medical relief in various forms and on a liberal scale. The District Board of Tipperah has opened ten new dispensaries during the year. These dispensaries are said to have been carefully looked after by the Civil Surgeon and to have given a good outturn of work. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that other District Boards will try to follow the good example set by the people of Tipperah, and he expresses great satisfaction with the general work done by the Boards in the way of providing for medical relief.

The works undertaken by the Boards for the improvement of sanitation have neither been large nor important. In the Presidency Division no attention seems to have been paid to the improvement of water-supply. In justice to the Boards it must however be observed that there are necessary limitations to the action of the Boards in this way. The question of rural sanitation is one of extreme difficulty in Bengal, as no competent village agency exists for carrying out the works of reform, and the funds of the Board are limited. Evidently the Boards cannot execute all the works that are needed. But the Resolution very rightly insists on their setting examples as opportunity offers, and promoting general knowledge of the measures tending to improve the healthiness of a locality. The Resolution further advises that such works should be distributed impartially in different parts of the District.

Some good work was done by the District Boards in affording relief to the famine stricken people in the Sarun, Furreedpore, Patna, and Nuddea Districts. The famine was caused by unusually heavy floods and the District Boards' action as far as it went was commendable. The expenditure under civil works, which includes the maintenance and construction of roads and bridges, the excavating of new and re-excavating of old canals, as also the expenditure under such minor heads as steam river service, drainage, Railway feeders and Tramways were about the same as in the previous years.

SIR JOHN GORST ON INDIAN RAILWAYS.

SIR John Gorst, the late Under-Secretary of State for India, addressed a recent meeting of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce presided over by Mr. Robert Gladstone, Chairman of the East India and China trade section of the Chamber. Speaking before an audience chiefly composed of British merchants, Sir John naturally discoursed on Indian trade. He is one of the ablest members of the conservative party, and has always represented Indian affairs to his countrymen in a business like and interesting manner, and his utterances have sometimes been distinguished by a cynical out-spokenness. Sir John's official connection with the India office was appropriately closed by his address to the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce under notice. He spoke on various topics—railway extension, wheat export, cotton adulteration, telegraph rates and so on. But the most interesting portion of his address was that in which he discussed the present position and future prospects of Indian railway enterprise.

Sir John Gorst began by pointing out that the most important question connected with Indian trade was the development of the railway system of the country. There are now open in India, 17,300 miles of railroad, of which 3,040 miles are owned by companies, mostly guaranteed companies, 12,900 miles were owned by the State itself, and about 1,300 miles by the Feudatory Chiefs and Princes. It is worthy of note that during the last five years no less than 3,500 miles of new railroad have been constructed, an average of 700 miles per year; and the work of construction of railways is still going on with the utmost possible vigour. At present about 1,508 miles are in hand, including the East Coast Line. This line is a most important one, as it will connect Madras with Calcutta and open up to trade districts which have hitherto been entirely

destitute of railway communication. As these districts are periodically visited by famine, the opening of the East Coast Railway will be very useful for carrying food in bad seasons. Arrangements have also been made for the construction of the proposed Assam Bengal Railway. This line will start from Chittagong and proceed in a northerly direction by Comilla and Cachar to the valley of the Brahmaputra. Pending the formation of a company to take up this line, the Government has already commenced the work on one section of it—namely, the Gouhati-Lumding Section. Besides, railways in Upper Burma are being actively proceeded with, and a project for a line direct from Karachi to Delhi is under consideration. During the last five years an average of 9½ crores of rupees per annum has been spent upon railway construction in India. The total of capital laid out on open railways in India to 31st December 1890 was, in round number, 213½ crores of rupees. Of this sum, 35 crores have been expended by guaranteed and other companies, 36 crores by the East Indian Railway, 113 crores on other State lines, and 9 crores by the Native States. The gross receipts of the Indian railways during the past calendar year amounted to 20½ crores, of which about 50 per cent were absorbed by working expenses. It is satisfactory to notice that some of the lines were worked at so low rate as 32 per cent. Sir John Gorst told his audience that on all lines in the year 1890 there was an average return of 4½ per cent. while on some lines as much as 8 or 7 per cent., was earned. These results would seem to show that Indian railways have proved sound and profitable investments. We must, however, bear in mind that although the railways in India gave a return of 4½ per cent. on their capital cost, the expense of paying in England the interest in gold was so heavy that the result of the Railway Revenue Account last year was to impose a charge of more than a crore on the Government. This charge was nearly two crores in 1889 and it is expected to come up to a crore and a-half in the current year. Then, we must not forget that some of the older lines only are yielding handsome returns on the capital invested in them. These are the East Indian Railway, the Bombay Baroda and Central Indian Railway, the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and the Eastern Bengal Railway. The earnings of these four lines bring up the general average. There are many lines which do not pay and which probably never will. In official reports the paying lines are made to supplement the losses on the non-paying lines, and thus a delusive notion of the Indian railway system as a whole is presented.

The reader may remember that the East India and China Trade Section of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce has represented to the India Office the great importance of extending the railways of Upper Burma to the Chinese frontier. Sir John Gorst referred to this question as follows:—"As to the extension of railways in Burma towards the Chinese frontier, upon which the Government had received representations from many Chambers of Commerce, he said that the Government of India was fully alive to the importance of establishing railways which would open fresh fields for British commerce. But it must be remembered that the northern district of Burma was invested with wild tribes, and its physical conditions presented serious obstacles. The opinion expressed by the East India and China section of the Chamber was a very just one—namely, that it would be of first-rate importance, but that the existing difficulties were enormous. Engineering difficulties, of course, meant largely increased expenditure, and all that need be said at the present moment was that the present railway in Burma by the Mu Valley was gradually being taken on towards Eastern Bengal, and that in the Bengal circle a section of the Assam line would be connected with Manipur and Upper Burma by a good military road, which had been begun. That railway communication between Calcutta and Bhamo would some day be established was fully certain, but considerable time would necessarily elapse before it became an accomplished fact." Well, if railway

communication is established between Calcutta and Bhamo, it will be for the benefit of British merchants and manufacturers. This being the case, it is only fair that the cost of the undertaking should be borne by the British Exchequer. It would be the height of injustice to throw upon the Indian taxpayer the cost that would be caused by extending the railways of Upper Burma to the Chinese frontier with a view to create fresh markets for British goods. Sir John Gorst said that the Government of India admitted that there was need for more railways and they were very desirous of having them constructed; and that they would gladly see that private enterprise was applied for the purpose; and that their policy was to encourage it by all legitimate means. It is true that the India Government is anxious to promote railway construction in India by private enterprise; but experience has clearly shown that the British capitalist, who looks to profits, will not invest his money in Indian railways without a guarantee, as he knows very well that they are not the sound and profitable investments they are represented to be in official reports.

THE LAND INDEBTEDNESS COMMISSION—II.

THE most important suggestion made by the Deccan Ryot's Commission of 1875 yet remains to be mentioned. The members of the Commission who were acquainted with the Settlement system of Upper India—namely, Mr. (now Sir) Auckland Colvin and the late Mr. C. W. Carpenter, were of opinion that the Bombay system of settlement was one of the main causes of the excessive pressure of debt upon the Deccan ryot. They pointed out that Settlement Officers in the Western Presidency imposed at each revision rates upon all land in occupation much in excess of those previously paid, while the system of occupancy, by which each field taken up was at once assessed with its quota, left no margin. It was of course not to be expected that the Bombay members of the Commission would agree with their colleagues from the North-Western Provinces, in ascribing much of the indebtedness of the ryots to defects in the revenue system. Nevertheless, they were constrained to admit that, "if it were possible to introduce a more elastic system than the present, which should yet be governed by fixed principles and avoid haphazard remissions, both the ryot and the Government would in the end be gainers." They, accordingly, suggested greater elasticity in the revenue system and wrote:—"As the outturn of produce in these drought-stricken districts varies directly with the quantity and timeliness of the rain-fall, and as these are matters which can be accurately ascertained, it may be possible that some system of adjusting the Government demand to the ryot's capacity within reasonable limits might be made to work without being open to the objection of uncertainty." An elastic revenue system, it must not be forgotten, was in force in the Deccan, when it was under Mahratta rule. Under that system, the Government demand was carefully regulated by the actual outturn of produce in these districts, where the rainfall is so uncertain, and the assessment was collected in kind. This being the case, the agriculturists felt no necessity whatever for borrowing save in exceptional cases. It is not, therefore, at all surprising, that when the Deccan came under British rule on the downfall of the Peshwa, Mount Stuart Elphinstone found that the agricultural classes in these drought-stricken districts were fairly well off. This state of things was, however, changed in a short time. The barbarous and unscientific revenue system of the Mahrattas found no favour with the English rulers of the Deccan, who introduced a rigid and harsh system. Fixed assessments were imposed on the land, and these were rigorously exacted in cash, without any regard to the character of the season or the quantity and timeliness of the rainfall. The inexorable British tax-gatherer knew no mercy. He was worse than Shylock, and exacted his pound of flesh without considering at all whether the debtor was in a position to meet his demand or

not. Nor was this all. The assessment was under a scientific revenue system, collected in cash, and at each revision of settlement, the Government demand was mercilessly increased. There could be no doubt whatever, that the rigid and harsh revenue system introduced by the British Government was the main cause of the indebtedness of the agriculturists in the Deccan. And even the Bombay members of the Commission, though they did not attribute the riots of 1875 to the introduction of the revised demand, joined with their colleagues from the North-Western Provinces, in recommending that when the Government demand, in revision of settlement, was enhanced by more than 25 per cent, the increase should be imposed gradually.

We now come to the main remedial measures recommended by the Commission. They suggested the passing of a Bill for the prevention of frauds by the appointment in every district of Public Notaries to draw up instruments on behalf of persons applying to them, to witness execution, and to register the instrument after execution; and by enforcing the delivery of receipts and accounts. They also recommended that the law relating to the execution of decrees should be amended by abolishing imprisonment for debt; by exempting necessities from attachment and sale; by practically stopping the sale of the debtor's interest in the immoveable property proposed for attachment; and by providing that no application for the execution of a decree should be received after the expiration of six years from the date of the decree. The proposals made by the Commissioners under this head were intended to reduce decrees into mere waste paper, and most of them have since been adopted into the general law of Civil Procedure. Certain alterations in the conduct of judicial business were also proposed, and the Commissioners thought that an Insolvency Act for the Mofussil was urgently needed. They were of opinion, that if the measures recommended by them were adopted, there was no ground for the fear that they would tend to reduce the money-lender's security by limiting his power of recovery, and would raise the rate of interest. On the contrary, they held that the limitation of the powers of recovery would operate rather to restrict the village money-lender's business to its legitimate limits by excluding the worst class of borrowers from obtaining loans altogether. The Commissioners observed:—"Improvements in the system of dealing ought both to improve the relations of debtor and creditor, and to facilitate the disposal of suits when the parties differ. Curtailment of the creditor's excessive powers of recovery by law ought to check unfair dealings, and the vast amount of debt due from insolvent or nearly insolvent estates, which gives occasion both to constant suits and to constant applications for execution. The extension of limitation for bonds will enable the debtor to stave off the constantly recurring crises which end so often in a suit. The restriction of the currency of decrees, and the discouragement to their adjustment by new bonds will stimulate the creditor to obtain speedy satisfaction and reduce the number of processes."

It should be carefully borne in mind, that the Bombay Government, in dealing with the Report of the Deccan Ryot's Commission, at first scouted the notion of effecting any improvement in the revenue system of the Western Presidency, which was the main cause of the excessive pressure of debt upon the agriculturists. They accepted some of the proposals made by the Commissioners, and dissented from them on some points. After a good deal of correspondence with the Bombay Government and the Secretary of State, the Government of India deputed Mr. (now Sir) Theodore Hope, then an Additional Member of the Viceroy's Legislative Council, to prepare a draft Bill for giving effect to those recommendations made by the Commissioners, which had been approved. The Bill also contained some new proposals. The measure was introduced into the Supreme Legislative Council in July 1879, and passed into law in October of the same year. While the Bill was under the consideration of the Council, we wrote a series of articles upon it in these columns, and clearly pointed out that though the

measure would legalise the confiscation of the money-lender's property for the benefit of the ryot, whom a harsh and rigid revenue system compelled to borrow, it would not go to the root of the evil; and that the application of mere palliatives would not cure the malady from which the poor ryot was suffering. We strongly insisted that the disease should be probed to the bottom, and a proper and effectual remedy applied. In the course of the debate upon the Bill in the Legislative Council, Mr. Hope admitted the justice of our remarks when he said that the Government would consider the desirability of modifying the rigid revenue system, which was quite unsuited to the conditions existing in Deccan. But although twelve years have elapsed since this hope was held out by Mr. Hope in his place in the Legislative Council, nothing has yet been done to fulfil it. While the authors of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act took no steps to remove the main cause of the ryot's indebtedness, they introduced many changes which were calculated to throw serious obstacles in the way of the recovery of debts. It was enacted that an agriculturist defendant could be sued only in a Court within the local limits of whose jurisdiction he resides; that in suits for recovery of money lent or due on contract, or for redemption of mortgaged property when the plaintiff is an agriculturist, the Court, if the amount of the creditor's claim is disputed, must enquire into the history and merits of the case from the commencement of the transactions between the parties out of which the suit has arisen, with a view to ascertaining whether there was any defence on the ground of fraud, mistake, accident, undue influence, or otherwise, and that even in cases of admission by the defendant, the court would enquire into all the circumstances, if there was reason to believe that the admission was not true. The courts were also empowered to direct the amounts due to be ascertained by arbitration or to order instalments at any time. It was further provided that no agriculturist could be arrested or imprisoned in execution of a decree for money, and that no agriculturist's immoveable property could be attached or sold in execution of a decree unless specifically pledged. A special insolvency and special periods of limitation for agriculturists were prescribed, and the court was authorised to take insolvency proceedings of its own motion and not merely on the application of the debtor.

Latest News and Notes.

THE next general elections of the Municipal Commissioners for Calcutta will be held in March next. The electors should register their names without any delay.

MR. P. CHANTSAL ROW, C. I. E., has been appointed to a seat in the Supreme Legislative Council.

THE phonograph entertainment given by Professor Douglas Archibald on Friday night was very successful. The audience were simply enraptured.

MR. SONNENSCHNEIN has been acquitted, on appeal, of rashly and negligently causing the death of a native. The charge was built up upon an unfortunate accident, and nothing more—so say our Anglo-Indian contemporaries, and we must only deplore the fatality which overtakes the lives of so many poor Indians.

THERE is satisfactory news from Nilt. The wounded sepoys are doing well. Colonel Durand has returned to Gilgit. A sort of guerilla warfare is now expected against the Hunza and Nagar tribes.

SIR Auckland Colvin left Calcutta for Allahabad on Friday night. His Honor, we learn, during his visit here discussed with Sir David

Barbour 'the terms of the new provincial contract for the North-West Provinces and Oudh; but the main business of the visit has been in connection with the police reorganisation scheme, in which His Excellency the Viceroy and the Government of India are specially interested. The question of ways and means should be satisfactorily settled as the result of the Lieutenant-Governor's journey.'

THE appeal made by Sir Monier Williams for a sum of money to complete his Indian Institute has met with a liberal response. "The Viceroy of India has promised to add to his original subscription, Lord Derby has contributed £50, Mr. Albert Brassey £100 (additional), the Gaekwar of Baroda gives an additional subscription, and Sir Monier Williams himself an extra donation of £50. Gifts are also promised from Sir Bernard Samuelson and the Marquis of Bute." 'One of our Home correspondents', says the *Pioneer*, 'learns that at the present moment Sir Monier Williams has £6,000 (belonging to the original fund) invested and available for the proposed extension but of that sum about £4,000 will be needed for the purchase of the two houses adjoining the existing site, leaving only £2,000 available for the actual building, for which in all £8,000 is needed.'

THE Diamond case is dragging its slow length along. The case for the prosecution was completed on Thursday last. Counsel for the defence summed up the case on Saturday last, and Mr. Woodroffe replied. Mr. Woodroffe will continue his address to-day, and is likely to occupy the whole day.

THE Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta had a most animated debate on Thursday last. The question was that of the proposed increase of the pay of the Chairman. This matter had practically been decided in March last, when it was resolved by a substantial majority that the matter be taken up in connection with the Budget estimates for 1892-93. Are the Budget estimates for 1892-93 before the Municipal Commissioners now? We think not. It will be sometime before the Budget estimates are laid before the Commissioners. Why then, may we ask, was this matter brought forward now? We understand there were some personal reasons which the Chairman had, and which he explained to the meeting—reasons relating to his taking privilege leave, which induced him to suggest that this matter should now be taken up. Surely the public and the Commissioners have nothing whatever to do with personal considerations in the conduct of public business. Upon the same ground, and for similar reasons the Chairman might find it inconvenient to work at a salary of Rs. 3000 a month, say some six months hence; and will the Commissioners again, to suit his convenience, reopen the question of his salary? We are afraid the days of *apke-wastism* are again re-appearing in the Municipality. Events move in cycles. The heroic opponents of *apke-wastism*—Rai Kristo Dass Pal and Raja Rajendralala Mitra,—are dead and gone, and the disease bids fair once again to enter appearance.

DOES any body pretend that the Chairman is badly paid? Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee conclusively showed by reference to the figures in the Civil list that Mr. Lee, although he occupies the last place among the men of his year on the Bengal Establishment, occupies the first place as regards pay. Then again with the sole exception of Mr. Risley, the Municipal Secretary to Government, he draws a higher pay than his seniors of 1873. It was made plain at the meeting that if the house-allowance of 500 Rs. a month were to be given to Mr. Lee, he would draw a higher allowance than First Grade Judges, Commissioners of Divisions, and even Secretaries to Government. We are sorry for the vote of Thursday last; it was an act of uncalled for

generosity especially having regard to the fact that the financial position of the Municipality is far from being satisfactory. When poor clerks are not to get their pensions and when they are to be deprived of their graded system, it seems to us to be singularly inopportune to think of increasing the pay of the most highly paid official of the Municipality. The majority of the Commissioners have not done their duty, and our hope now lies in Sir Charles Elliott to whom we would appeal to veto the Resolution. Surely it cannot be taken to be the Resolution of the Municipality in the sense in which Sir Charles Elliott wanted it in March last, when more than half of the entire body of the Commissioners stayed away from the meeting. It is significant, too, that not one single non-official European vote was recorded in favour of the Resolution.

THE question of sea-voyages among the ancient Hindus has now thrust itself into special prominence. That it should do so is only natural. England is the land of our rulers; it is the home of our Sovereign. The connection between England and India is intimate. It is growing every day. Large numbers of our young men go to England every year for purposes of education. Considerable numbers of them return home every year. Then again there is the proposal to hold a session of the Congress in London—a proposal which was unanimously adopted at the last session of the Congress. The subject can indeed be no longer buried, and Hindu Society must definitely make up its mind how to deal with this growing question. The question is beset with difficulties, but not more so than many other questions which we have to deal with in practical life. Hindu Society is essentially conservative, essentially religious in its tendencies. Is a journey to England reconcileable with the conservative tendencies of Hindu Society? It would be hazardous to say that it is not. Facts point to the conclusion that orthodox Hindus may visit England without outrage to their conservative and religious instincts. No man was more orthodox in his ways and habits, no man was a truer Hindu than the late Sir Jung Bahadur, and we know he went to England. The Raja of Kholapur, another Hindu Prince, a descendant of the great founder of the Mahratta Empire, Sivaji, went to England and unfortunately for him died at Florence where he was cremated according to Hindu rites. Quite recently several orthodox Hindu Princes, such as the Gaekwar of Baroda, and the Maharaja Holkar had been to England in connection with the Jubilee celebration of Her majesty.

WE also have it as a historical fact that in the palmy days of Mahratta greatness, a Hindu Vakeel was sent to England as the representative of the Peshwa. When the *Lex Loci* Act was passed, the Hindu community under the leadership of the late Raja Sir Radhakant Deb Bahadur seriously thought of sending a Hindu Delegate to England, and that such a Delegate was not sent was due to considerations other than religious. It has been authoritatively given out that His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, perhaps the greatest Hindu Prince of Southern India, intends undertaking a journey to England. Perhaps we should be safe in saying that there is nothing in the authoritative texts of the Hindu Sastras or in the practices of the ancient Hindus which may be considered as a bar in the way of Hindus visiting England. If the journey is undertaken with due regard to orthodox habits and practices, society would be inclined not to view it with disfavour—society would be inclined to conform to the practices of the past and to the requirements of the present. Those who are not Hindus have no adequate conception of the elasticity and the breadth of tone of the Hindu system. Narrowness and illiberalism is no part of our creed. No community could have greater reverence for its own traditions, and yet no community is more willing to adapt itself to circumstances if need be, but always in conformity with the lines

of its own venerated faith. Our so-called reformers would reform Hindu society off the face of creation; and their work recoils upon themselves by strengthening the hands of the reactionary element which must exist in all societies. The true Hindu takes his stand upon the venerated traditions of his country and he is prepared to adapt himself to circumstances if need be, if they do no violence to the ancient usages of his fathers and the true genius of the Sastras. He understands what Burke has taught us, what our common sense teaches us every day—that a society without a means of change is without the means of its own conservation. Sea-voyages do not militate against our truest instincts or against the interpretations of the Sastras provided they can be conducted in accordance with orthodox sentiments and ideas.

WE take the following from the *Times*:—"In a circular which the Executive Committee of the London rate payers' Defence League (of which the Duke of Westminster is president) have issued to metropolitan rate-payers, they say 'Every day the press and the public champions of economy and efficiency accuse you of improvident and culpable apathy; but, with the proverbially stoic indifference of the British taxpayer, you only grumble and pay. What has been the result of your apathy? The faddist, the Municipal jobber, the time-server, the political agitator, and last, but not least, the man who appreciates your money only to the extent that it benefits himself, have all worked their own sweet will while you have had to pay the piper and dance to the tune. The London School board glories in, 'fads' and a perennial increase in the rates. You at last have to pay 1s. in the pound for 'elementary'—mark that word—'education.' Elementary for sooth.—Astronomy, Mechanics, Physiology, Botany, Magnetism, Electricity, Geometry, Mathematics, Chemistry, Science and Physics; drawing, Music and singing; instructions in swimming and perhaps lawtennis; and why not dancing?—'Elementary' indeed! Can the majority of you afford to give your own children such an education? And this is the education that you have to provide at the behest of the School Board and faddists. Eleven years ago the rate was 5d., and now in spite of the increase in the rateable value of London by nearly 50 per cent, it has risen to 15, and on the best authority we hear it is likely to continue to rise at least a penny every year unless you stop it. A continuance of your apathy can only result in a continued increase in the rate. What is the remedy? The remedy is at hand. The School Board and the county Council are about to be reconstituted. These two boards alone have practically unlimited powers of spending your money and pledging your credit. Politics should be put aside. They have nothing to do with the election of municipal representatives, whose only duty should be to secure the efficient administration of the rate-payer's money with a due regard to economy. Efficiency and economy should be the watchwords of the future and no rate-payer should give his vote to any aspirant for Municipal honors who will not unreservedly pledge himself to economy and efficiency in the administration of the ratepayer's money. Away with all faddists, doctrinaires, and fussy busy bodies, and let us have plain common sense men of business who will manage our affairs in a commonsense and business like manner." We commend the above to the ratepayers of Calcutta. It is time that they should bestir themselves and look to efficiency and economy in the Municipal administration. Thursday's vote ought to teach them a lesson. It is plain that their representatives are not doing their duty. In the words of the Circular quoted above, we also say that no rate-payer should give his vote to any aspirant for Municipal honors who will not unreservedly pledge himself to economy and efficiency in the administration of the rate-payer's money.

WE understand that an account of Prince Albert Victor's tour in Southern India will shortly be published. It is from the pen of Mr. Rees, who accompanied the Prince. We wish some one would give us a complete record of the Prince's tours in India. Such a record deserves a permanent form.

The Queen, we understand, asked a European Zemindar of Bengal, whether the people of India are really loyal. Such a record as we refer to, if placed on Her Majesty's table, will give to our Sovereign the reply whose meaning can never be mistaken.

"THE question was recently asked by a correspondent of an Indian paper," says *Truth*, "whether a man sentenced to two years' imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 2,000, or in default of payment an additional year's imprisonment, remains liable to pay the fine after he has made default and served the extra year's imprisonment. Strange as it may appear, a writer in a subsequent issue of the same paper answered this question in the affirmative, stating confidently not only that the law is clearly to this effect, but that he knows a case in which a man who has served his term of imprisonment in default of payment of a fine was subsequently distrained upon and sold up to satisfy the penalty. I have always been under the impression that the Indian Penal Code was a monument of wise and scientific jurisprudence; but if this statement of the law is accurate, the Code certainly contains one radical defect." The statement of law mentioned by *Truth* is not accurate; and *Truth* may remain satisfied that his impression about the Penal Code is quite correct.

RAI Kristodas Pal's statue has arrived in Calcutta. The Memorial Committee had arranged that the unveiling ceremony should be performed before the close of the season. With this view they telegraphed to Mr. Nelson Maclean, the sculptor, to despatch the pedestal at once. Mr. Maclean telegraphs back to say that the pedestal is not yet finished. Under these circumstances the Committee, we regret to hear, will not be able "to put the statue in position" this year. As there will necessarily be some delay in performing the ceremony of unveiling, we wish the Committee would definitely settle about a prominent site for the statue. Two sites were proposed, one in front of the Secretariat Buildings, in Dalhousie-Square, and the other on the Central Road, where it crosses the College Street. The latter site would have been preferred, for obvious reasons, by most members of the Committee and the public. But unfortunately there is not sufficient space for the statue at this place, and so it has to be rejected. There now remains the first site mentioned. Opinion is divided about it, and we do not know how the question will be settled. Now that the question has been re-opened, we would invite the attention of the Committee to the following extract from the *Englishman*, dated May 2, 1889:—

It is now a question as to the exact spot where this statue is to be erected. Town Hall is overcrowded, the maidan is fairly well-stocked, but the city itself with the exception of Sir Ashley Eden's statue and one or two others is absolutely bare. The statue of Kristo Dass Paul should be placed somewhere in the city, and probably no better site could be found than the one which will be shortly formed when the new central road through the heart of Calcutta is made. At the foot of Hooghly bridge looking towards the river and in the centre of the new road the new statue of Kristo Dass Paul should be erected.

We earnestly trust the suggestion made by our contemporary will be taken into serious consideration by the Committee. It is time that the site for the statue should be selected without any more delay.

LORD DUFFERIN has now obtained one of the most coveted posts in the Diplomatic Service. His salary at Rome was £7000, at Paris it will be £9000.

THE allegations that the late Maharaja Soora Chander of Manipur was kept in an unhealthy place, that during his illness medical help was not offered to him, and that he was starved, are absolutely untrue. The late Maharaja occupied Moharani Surnomoyi's Kakurgachi villa, one of the best gardens in the suburbs of Calcutta with a palatial building. This garden-house was engaged by the Maharaja's own men, and the Government had nothing to do with its selection. Throughout his illness the Maharaja refused medical help on the ground of religious prejudices. The Maharaja and his men all indulged in bathing about half a dozen times in the tanks

in the garden against repeated warnings, and it is no wonder that they got ill. Even after the Maharaja's death his brothers and followers refused medical aid, and at last when they agreed to use European medicines they refused to take 'mixtures.' As for the charge of starvation it is utterly false and malicious; it is no secret that the so called 'friends' who got up petitions and memorials on his behalf were more than handsomely paid. Maharaja Soora Chandra and his brothers were always well provided with funds, a fact which can easily be ascertained when he and his brother never took the trouble to draw their pensions which were granted to them by the Government.

WE publish with pleasure the following letter which we have received from Babu Umesh Chandra Batavyal. The writer is a distinguished graduate of the Calcutta University, and occupies a high place in the Executive Service. We feel sure his words will carry great weight with the electors.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HINDU PATRIOT.

SIR—May I be permitted to appeal through your columns to all M. As. of the Calcutta University, who have been called upon to vote at the ensuing election of a fellow of that University, to give their vote this time in favour of an Anglo-Sanskrit Scholar? That element, after the death of such distinguished ornaments of our country and pioneers of our progress as Babu Prasannakumar Sarvadhikari, Pandit Isur Chandra Vidyasagara, and Drs. R. Jendralala Mitra and Krishna Mohun Banerji, requires to be strengthened in our University. I yield to no one in my appreciation of the merits of a *Scientific*—as distinguished from a *Literary* training. But I think it requires no special advocacy to uphold the cause of Sanskrit as a means of educating the youth of our country. To make my meaning clear I state that a knowledge of the English language is now indispensable; that a knowledge of European Science may be turned to useful purposes, but that without a knowledge of the traditions of our country, through the medium of Sanskrit Literature, our social and moral progress will lack intelligent guidance. The Indian youth can acquire but an one-sided training, through the sole medium of English; a knowledge of the Sanskrit is the best corrective to this defect. A mixed Anglo-Sanskrit course is the best medium of education, for our youngmen. The civilization of the East and the West can be harmoniously blended only by insisting on such a system of education.

If the sentiments herein expressed find an echo in the hearts of my educated countrymen, I have no doubt that the M. As. of our University will elect an Anglo-Sanskrit scholar for the vacant fellowship. To find a fit successor to the eminent scholars whose names have been mentioned above will be impossible. Nevertheless, I think there are several candidates distinguished for their attainments in Sanskrit and who are at the same time good English Scholars, from whom a very satisfactory selection might be made. I have no personal interests whatever in making this appeal, however highly I may prize the honor of a fellowship of our University. I am on the present occasion no candidate for it. But I make no concealment of the fact that my own education has been through the mixed Anglo-Sanskrit medium, and that my love of Sanskrit language and literature knows no bounds. My heart will exult to see our young scholars, who come out with Degrees, one and all qualified to construe the poetry of Vaimiki, and the prose of Visnu Sarma with ease and facility, and able to understand the sacred hymns of Veda Deva and Visvamitra in their own grand old speech,—a speech the elements of which still predominate in our spoken language. Can the country have a better man in the Legislative Chamber than one who, to other necessary qualifications, adds a knowledge of the history of this country, through the medium of its great Sanskrit Literature? Can we have a better man on the Bench to administer our Law, than one who understands the language in which that Law is expressed? Can any one pretend to reach the hearts of the "People"—unless he understands their true moral nature—as inherited from their ancestors who were the pioneers of the civilization of the world? The Anglo-Sanskritist alone knows best how the new branch is to be grafted on the old stock: how the continuity of the genuine old Indian civilization is to be preserved. English and Sanskrit interpret each other in his mind, and we ought to be one and all—Anglo-Sanskritists.

There ought to be a strong voice in our Indian Universities to support the cause of a mixed Anglo-

Sanskrit training, for our youngmen, and in this view of the situation I make bold to assert that the public interests will be best served by the election of an Anglo-Sanskrit Scholar on the present occasion.

UMES CHANDRA BATAYAL.
Birbhum,

The election takes place on the first of January, and the following gentlemen have registered their names as candidates. 1863 Babus Upendranath Mitter, 1864 Guruprosad Sen, 1865 Chandra Narain Singh, 1873 Sasibhusan Dutt, 1874 Prannath Saraswati, 1877 Nilkanta Mazumdar, 1880 Gobind Chandra Dass, 1886 Narendralal Dey, 1880 Hiramba Chandra Mitter, 1881 Kristolal Dutt, 1886 Satish Chandra Dutt, 1887 Jnan Chandra Ghose, 1887 Nagendra Nath Mitter, 1889 Upendralal Mazumdar, 1890 Nilratan Sircar. We do not know upon whom the choice will fall, but let us hope that the worthiest and the best will be selected, in spite of the active canvassing that has been going on for some time.

I.

SOME FOLK TALES OF BENGAL.*

THE STORY OF FORTUNE.

Once on a time there lived a king who had seven daughters. He called to him his first daughter and asked her "by whose fortune do you get your daily bread?" The girl answered, "by your fortune." The second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth girls, when asked, answered in the same manner. But when the youngest girl was asked the question, "by whose fortune do you get your daily bread?" She answered "by my own fortune." On this the king became very angry, called his ministers, and commanded them to send the youngest girl into the forest. So a paliki was brought and the bearers were told to take the girl into the forest. As the bearers were carrying the paliki, an old woman who was the nurse of the youngest girl, and whose name was Dada, ran after them crying, "stop, stop," "where are you taking away my child?" "I will go with you." The bearers stood still, and put the paliki on the ground. Dada came up, opened the door of the paliki, and sat in it beside the girl, and told the bearers to go on. The bearers went on and in the evening reached a great forest, in the middle of which they put down the paliki and returned to their homes. The sun soon set. Night came on apace. The forest was covered with darkness. In that forest there were a great many peacocks. Some of these peacocks came to the door of the paliki, and played round about it. Some wild animals also came near the paliki and dashed their heads against it, but the princess and her nurse were safe in the paliki, for they had shut the door from inside. Both of them slept soundly, though there was a great deal of the noise of wild beasts outside the paliki. At last morning dawned. The princess opened the door of the paliki, and saw many feathers of peacocks lying about on the ground. She told Dada to gather all the feathers and bring them inside the paliki. She tied all the feathers by a string and made a fan of them. After some time the princess told Dada to go with the fan to the nearest market and sell it. She added "if any one asks you the price, say, it is priceless." At noon Dada went with the fan to the market. Most people did not care for it. At last the son of a king saw the fan, admired it, and asked its price. The woman answered, "It is priceless." The prince took the fan and gave as its price a large cart laden with rupees and gold mohurs. Dada hired coolies and had the cart taken to the forest where the paliki was. After some days, the princess said to Dada: "We must build a house for ourselves, now that we have got money; go to the nearest town, and bring here some contractors of buildings." Accordingly Dada went to the nearest town and brought with her some contractors. The princess said to the contractors, "I want a fine house, like a palace, to be built here as quickly as possible. I will pay you well for it." The contractors said, "We shall try to build it as quickly as we can, only you must give us a large sum of money in advance"; the princess agreed to do so. The contractors in a few days brought thousands of labours who burnt bricks, prepared chunam, cut timber, and made other preparations for building. In a few weeks, a palace-like house was built, which was admired by everybody that saw it. The princess and Dada went to live in it.

The father of the princess was not a little astonished when he heard of this palace built by his youngest daughter, and her sisters were struck

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with wonder. After some time, the king wished to visit some distant countries, and he made up his mind to go in a ship. Before setting out, he asked all his six daughters who were at home, what each one wished him to bring for her. He then went on board the ship and was ready to start on his voyage. But the ship would not move. The king asked the minister what the reason was. The minister replied, you have not asked your youngest daughter what she would like you to bring for her; therefore, the ship does not move. Then the king sent a man to the house of his youngest daughter to ask her what she would like to be brought for her. She was at her prayers when the man went; Dada came out and said "suboor," meaning wait, as the princess was at her prayers. The man returned to the king and said, "the princess wanted suboor." The ship then began to move, and the king went to many lands, and bought the things which his six daughters wanted. But he found it difficult to get what his youngest daughter wanted, as the shopkeepers said, they did not know what suboor was. At last a young man brought a small box of wood and said, "this is suboor." The king then returned to his country, and gave to his daughters, the things they had wanted.

After some days, the youngest daughter had the curiosity to open the little box of wood which her father had brought for her. She found in it a fan of pea-cock's feathers, which she took up in her hand. As she waved the fan a fine looking prince entered the room. He sat down and talked to her. After a little she took up the fan, and again waved it, on which the prince disappeared. After many days, the elder princesses went on a visit to the youngest princess, and wished to see what thing their father had brought for her. The little box was shown, and as one of the sisters waved the fan, a prince appeared. After a little the youngest princess again waved the fan, and the prince disappeared. The six sisters were quite astonished and went away, resolved to do harm to the prince. They went home and made into powder, broken pieces of glass and bottle. In a few days the six sisters again went to the house of their youngest sister, and took with them the powdered glass. They saw their youngest sister preparing a bed for the prince of the fan. They offered to make the bed themselves. While preparing the bed, they put the powdered glass between the bed sheets, after when they went to their father's house. In the evening the princess waved the fan, on which the prince appeared; he slept on the bed made by the six sisters. He could get no sleep as the powdered glass went into his body. In the morning the princess waved her fan and the prince went away. On the next day the princess waved her fan, but the prince did not appear. On the third she again waved her fan, but no prince appeared. The fact is that the prince had become ill by the powdered glass which had gone inside his body.

The princess determined to go and see the prince. But how could she find him? He lived beyond the seven oceans, and it was impossible for her to cross them. She however resolved to go. With this view she was standing at the gate of her house, when she saw a Yogi passing by. She told the Yogi to exchange his clothes with hers, which he willingly did. Dressed in this manner, she set out on her journey. The princess, whom we shall now call the

Yogi, walked on and on till the sun set and then rested under a tall tree, on which were two birds with their little ones. The dam had gone out in search of food, and the little birds were alone in the nest. In a short time, the Yogi saw a snake climbing up the tree to devour the little birds. The Yogi immediately killed the snake with his knife. When the mother-bird was returning to the nest, she saw the Yogi and thought that it was he who now and then devoured her little ones. Thinking this, she was going to strike the Yogi with her wings; but the young ones told her that the Yogi was their friend and not their foe. They also told her that he had killed the snake which was coming into their nest. The male-bird also now returned to the nest, and the two big birds went down to the place where the Yogi sat and saw the pieces of the dead snake. The two big birds going up to their nest, said to each other: "We must befriend the Yogi, who is really a Prince in the dress of a Yogi. She is going to prince Suboor beyond the seven oceans; we must help her to cross those oceans, she will sit on our backs, and we will thus ferry her across." The princess was delighted to hear this talk of the birds. She got up early in the morning, and proceeded towards the first ocean. The big birds went along with her. When they came to the seashore, one of the birds said to the Yogi, "you sit on my back, and I will carry you across." The first ocean was thus crossed. When they came to the second ocean the other bird said, to the Yogi, "you sit on my back, and I will carry you across." In this way the seven oceans were crossed, and they reached the city of prince Suboor.

The Yogi went to the door of the palace and was told that the prince was very ill. The Yogi offered to cure the prince and was taken up to him. He ordered hot water which he gently applied to the body of the prince, and besmeared his whole body with the excrement of the birds which he had collected under the tree. Wonderful to say, the prince was cured in a few days. The Yogi was asked to mention his reward, but he said he would take nothing. Prince Suboor, however, pressed him to accept a ring and a handkerchief. The princess returned home in the same way, with the help of the birds. After reaching home, the princess waved her fan on which the prince appeared, who found out from the ring and the handkerchief, that the Yogi who had cured him, was none other than the princess. Afterwards Prince Suboor and the princess were joined in marriage and lived happily together for many years.

MEMORY. LOISETTE'S System. A Law Lecturer of King's College London (J. H. Scaife, LL.B.), says (Jan., 1891): "Invaluable for examination purposes and as a sound training of the Memory." A Cambridge University Lecturer (Dr. R. N. Ingle, M.A.) was (Jan., 1890): "Much impressed with the possibilities of improvement to memory which the LOISETTE Lessons open up." "I derived great benefit for your lessons, though it at first prejudiced against them by the misrepresentations of Mr. Appleby."—Dr. Geo. Herschell, Physician to the West End Hospital for Diseases of the Nervous System, London. "In three weeks I was able to memorise the names, &c., of 400 men."—Major Jamieson, Bengal S. C. "Excellent" travelling companion."—Capt J. B. Haye, R. N. "Wonderful aid to memory."—Mirza Sader-ud-din Khan. "Invaluable."—J. J. Francis, Q. B. "Does not involve much labour."—*Statesman*, 23rd Oct., 1887. "The audience (representative of the learned Professions) was most enthusiastic." *Glasgow Herald*, 5th March, 1891. Tremendously popular in Oxford."—*Pall Mall Gazette*, 4th Feb., 1890. Prospectus Free. One Pupils Rs. 76; Ten pupils Rs. 19 each. Apply to F. Fili Williams, 71, Elliot Road, Calcutta; or to A. LOISETTE, 37 New Oxford Street, London

Advice given by Professor Bazin, Head Doctor a Saint-Louis Hospital:—"It quite satisfied the doctors in all countries to see the effects of 'Guyot's Tar' in order to appreciate at once its importance and the services it can render; this preparation will be soon, I hope, universally adopted." Guyot's Tar is a salutary natural drink, most efficacious in fortifying delicate temperaments and feeble constitutions. "The habitual daily use of tar is highly recommended for convalescents and persons of feeble constitutions; it is an excellent preservative against most epidemical maladies." Guyot's Tar is an efficacious remedy for hepatic and nephritic colics, which it prevents or cures. Guyot's Tar is the hygienic drink in hotweather and during epidemics.

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—ITS UNEQUALLED EFFICACY IN GENERAL DEBILITY AND EMACIATION.—In cases of Debility and Emaciation, the powerful curative influence of Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is graphically described by Sir Henry Marsh, Bart, M. D., Physician in Ordinary to the Queen in Ireland, who, after extensive use, strongly recommended this preparation and observed:—"I have frequently prescribed Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil. I consider it to be a very pure Oil, not likely to create disgust, and a therapeutic agent of great value. This eminent Physician remarks:—"With strumous and emaciated subjects, and where the general health is impaired this remedy tells with peculiar efficacy. The reviving and remaining effects of a regular daily course of this animal Oil are highly satisfactory. Its favourable action on the system is renovating; it checks progressive emaciation, restores the yielding health, rebuilds as it were, the tottering frame, and brings about a most remarkable and salutary change in all the vital functions." Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints, and quarters, with his stamp and signature and the signature of his sole consignees on the capsule and the label under wrapper, by all chemists, druggists and storekeepers. Sole Consignees, Ansar, Harford and Co, 210, High Holborn, London.

Extracts.

ACTION TAKEN UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE POLICE REFORM COMMITTEE.

No. 4226J.

RESOLUTION.

POLICE.

Motihari, the 28th November 1891.

READ—

Resolution of this Government, dated 24th September 1891, appointing a Committee consisting of Mr J. Beames, c. s., Mr. J. F. Stevens, c. s., and Mr. J. C. Veasey, c. s., to collect information regarding the reform of the Police in these Provinces.

READ ALSO—

Letters Nos. 27, 31 and 35, dated 1st, 5th, and 19th December 1890, adding Raja Peary Mohan Mukherjee, c. s. i., Mr. E. R. Macnaghten and Mr. H. H. Risley, as Secretary.

READ ALSO—

The Report of the Committee.

In the Resolution cited in the preamble, it was stated that the Lieutenant Governor, after examining, in compliance with the instructions of the Government of India, the statistics of crime cognizable by the Police reported and disposed of in Bengal during the years 1878-1888, had come to the conclusion that although crime generally was not positively great in Bengal and was decreasing relatively to the increase of population, yet certain offences showed a tendency to increase; that an unduly large proportion of the crime actually occurring was not brought to the notice of the Police or of the Magistrates and was therefore never enquired into; that the Police enquiry into a large number of the cases taken up was fruitless, such cases never coming before the Courts, and that a disproportionate number of the persons brought before the Courts were acquitted. The Governor-General in Council, on considering the special reports of this and the other Local Governments on the subject, thought it advisable not to appoint a General Commission to investigate the problem of Police reform throughout India, for the reason that the conditions under which the administration of different Provinces is carried on vary so much that practical results are likely to be attained only by concentrating attention on local circumstances and requirements. It was accordingly left to the Lieutenant-Governor, if he should see fit, to convene a Provincial Committee. Being of opinion that it was evidently necessary to enquire minutely into the causes of the imperfections admitted to exist, and to ascertain by what means whether legislative or executive, remedies capable of being made practically effective could be devised and applied, Sir Stuart Bayley decided to appoint a Committee, consisting of experienced officials from both the Executive and Judicial branches of the services, and of gentlemen representing the views of the public. Mr. J. Beames, Commissioner of Bhagalpur, who was appointed the President of the Committee, entered upon his duties on the 20th August 1891. Mr. J. F. Stevens, Judge of Gaya, and Mr. J. C. Veasey, Inspector-General of Police, joined him at the beginning of October. Raja Peary Mohan Mukherjee, a large zemindar, was added to the Committee on the 1st December, Mr. E. R. Macnaghten, Secretary of the Behar Planters' Association, joined it on the 16th idem, and Mr. H. H. Risley, c. s., acted as Member and Secretary from

NOTICE.

ESTATE JAGU LALL DOBEY DECEASED.

The public are hereby informed that Sreemutty Manaka Rani Dabi of Wellington Street in Bowbazar, Calcutta, is the sole widow and heiress of the deceased abovenamed who died intestate and that as such widow and heiress, She obtained letters of administration to the said Estate under an order of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal in its Testamentary and intestate Jurisdiction, dated the 23rd of April 1888, and that no one else have any interest whatsoever in the said Estate. The public are therefore cautioned against dealing with any one else in regard to the said Estate or advancing money on the security thereof or any portion thereof.

KALLYNATH MITTER & SARVADHIKARY,
Attorneys for S. M. Manokarani Dabi.

the 17th idem. After examining a number of witnesses, and discussing the written and oral evidence and other materials before them, the Committee submitted their Report on the 26th February 1891.

2. Since the receipt of the Report, which is signed unanimously, the Government of Bengal has fully considered the numerous recommendations made by the Committee; a number of the suggestions have already been acted upon, and the Lieutenant-Governor has been taking steps to carry out those remaining which have met with his approval. The measures adopted have now advanced to such a stage that what has been done can be conveniently summarised and made public. The ensuing paragraphs, in describing the recommendations and the action taken upon them follow the order of arrangement adopted in the Committee's Report which is divided into three main heads, viz.—I. The Village Police. II. The Regular Police. III. The Criminal Courts.

PART I.—VILLAGE POLICE.

3. The Committee have passed in review the previous essays towards the important and difficult question of improving the Village Police of Bengal, and have examined the working of Act VI (B. C.) of 1870, amended by Act I (B. C.) of 1886, and the systems of chaukidars who are not under that Act. The conclusion of the Committee is that, although chaukidars are better paid than formerly, they are not much, if at all, more useful than they were, and that radical changes in the law affecting both punchayets and chaukidars are necessary before improvement can be expected. The chief proposals made may be classed as follows:—

(A).—Recommendations requiring legislation.

(a). The repeal of the restriction of the minimum of 60 houses in villages, and 80 houses in unions, for the introduction of the Act. The Magistrate should have power to introduce the Act into all villages irrespective of the number of houses they contain, provided that the inhabitants can afford to pay the chaukidar's wages.

(b). The number of chaukidars to be employed in any village should not be left to the punchayet entirely as at present, but the determination of the punchayet should be subject to the control of the Magistrate; the minimum of 1 chaukidar for 60 houses, 2 for 150, and one more for every extra 100 houses remaining as before.

(c). The rate of pay of the chaukidar between the limits of Rs. 3 and Rs. 6 per mensem should be fixed by the Magistrate and not by the punchayet.

(d). The supervision over chaukidars should be exercised by an official to be called the Circle Officer (halkadar), who should also collect the chaukidari rate. He should be directly under the orders of the Magistrate of district, and should be paid by a levy of 25 per cent. over and above the amount levied for the chaukidar's salary, instead of 15 per cent. as now provided in section 13 of the Act. The collections made by this officer should be paid into the district or sub-divisional treasury.

(e). The provisions of section 50 of the Act should be amended so as to allow of the zemindar contesting the claim of the punchayet to include in the *chakran* area lands which he contends are rent-paying. Section 64 should also be amended so as to give

Commissioners control over the proceedings of Collectors under Part II of the Act.

(f). Special provisions for the duties of assessment and supervision in tea gardens in Julpauri and elsewhere, where ordinary punchayets cannot be appointed.

The most important of these recommendations is that the Magistrate should be allowed power to introduce the Act into all villages in the province. The Lieutenant-Governor has accepted this, and proposes to divide the inhabited area of the whole country into blocks—each of which should have one or more chaukidars according to its size, and the number and means of its inhabitants. It may be necessary to take power to fix the pay of the chaukidar at Rs. 2 a month in some of the poorer and worst cultivated blocks, but the Lieutenant-Governor expected that this will be only necessary in a few exceptionally situated places. It may also be found desirable in some parts of the country to have only one punchayet for two or more blocks, and this will be provided for in the new law. Provision will also be made for the election of punchayets in such parts of the country as may be fitted for the exercise of this privilege, and where it is desired. The Lieutenant-Governor has been unable to accept the proposal mentioned in clause (d) above, that the collections should be paid into the district or sub-divisional treasury. The disadvantages of this seem to outweigh any possible advantages. It will be necessary to make it clear in the law that any member of a punchayet may if competent, be appointed collecting officer at the duties of collection and supervision shall not necessarily be entrusted to the same officer, and also that the amount to be levied in excess of the chaukidars' salaries need not be as much as 25 per cent. in all cases, and be available for other purposes connected with the administration of the Act, besides the payment of circle and collecting officers. A draft Bill intended to carry out the changes which have been resolved on, has been submitted to the Government of India and to the Secretary of State, and permission to introduce it into the Lieutenant-Governor's Council has now been obtained. The draft has been circulated for opinion to all local officers and the various associations representing classes interested in the subject, and any recommendations made by them will be considered before the Bill is introduced. Besides the changes mentioned above, based on the recommendations of the Committee, the draft contains the following provisions:—

(a) The extension of the powers of arrest by a chaukidar so as to bring the law into accordance with the general practice.

(b) The extension of the power of the Local Government to issue rules for the guidance of Magistrates and others exercising powers under the Act.

It also contains some minor changes which need not be detailed here.

It is recommended by the Committee that the duty of reporting vital statistics, epidemic state of crops &c., should be transferred from the chaukidar to the punchayet, who should send a written report by the chaukidar when he goes to the police-station to attend muster-parade, or by post when more convenient. The Lieutenant-Governor is inclined to agree to this proposal. It has not been incorporated in the Bill, but on the receipt of replies from those consulted, His Honour will consider the propriety of introducing a provision to give effect to his recommendation.

(B).—Recommendations to be carried out by executive orders.

(a) The committee are of opinion that the rate of pay of the chaukidar, between the limits of Rs. 3 and Rs. 6 per mensem, varies very unfairly and in many places is not fixed with reference to the rates of wages of unskilled labour, cost of living and other local circumstances. The Lieutenant-Governor has caused enquiries to be instituted by District Officers in each thana with a view to fixing the rate of pay for that area, which shall be the ordinary rate in future; the results of these enquiries will be scrutinized by the Divisional Commissioners. As above mentioned, it may hereafter be found necessary to fix the pay as low as Rs. 2 in a few tracts.



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(b) The system of muster-parades prevailing in most districts is commended in the Report, and the Lieutenant-Governor approves the principle upon which it is based of requiring the chaukidar to attend regularly at the police station. The Inspector-General of Police has recently drawn up draft instructions for the purpose of bringing the procedure to be followed at these parades into accord throughout the province; these instructions have been sent to selected District Officers and District Superintendents for criticism and suggestions before being issued.

(C)—Recommendations concerning service lands.

(a). The Committee advocate the abolition of the Government orders of 1886, which are to the effect that the provision of the Act for the conversion of *chakran* lands should not be put into force when there are already chaukidars in the enjoyments of *chakran* lands, and the amount and value of such lands are sufficient for their proper maintenance. These orders have had the effect of regarding greatly the abolition of *chakran* chaukidars, whose services almost invariably are unsatisfactory, and Sir Charles Elliott agrees with the Committee that the last circular upon the subject should be cancelled as soon as the proposed provisions, giving Commissioner of the Division general controlling authority over the proceedings of the Collector in effecting the conversion, are passed into law. The present Act would leave the parties without the power to appeal against the Collector's orders.

(b). Besides the regular village police, there exist in the Bankura, Midnapur, Manbhum, and some other districts, classes of rural officers called *ghatwals*, *paiks*, and *phanridars*; these always hold service lands, but the services they are supposed to render are very often delegated by them to sub-lessees. The organization of these old rural officials is most unsatisfactory and calls for special investigation. Mr. Risley, the Secretary of the Committee, drew up a Bill to provide for the commutation of the lands of the *ghatwals*, and the Committee recommended it with diffidence, as they did not deem themselves very competent to express an opinion upon the subject. The subject seemed to the Lieutenant-Governor to be one of such difficulty, involving many old customs and nice points of law, that he deputed a special officer, Mr. F. R. Henry, now Officiating Inspector-General of Police, to visit the districts in question and draw up careful notes upon the facts relating to each of the various kinds of tenure. These notes have been sent to the local officers for their opinions; on receipt of replies the Lieutenant-Governor will be in a better position to deal with the problem of effecting an improvement which has hitherto proved difficult.

(c). The chaukidari system in Orissa is shown by the Committee to be in urgent need of reform, and three different courses of action are suggested, but not exhaustively examined. The Commissioner of the Division in consultation with the district officers, is now considering a suggestion to bring all the Orissa chaukidars under the Act. If this measure be adopted, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that it had better be carried out under the supervision of the settlement officer when the *jaigirs* held by the chaukidars have been surveyed and determined. All these lands should be commuted, and the necessary number of chaukidars should be decided on and their pay fixed *pari passu* with the progress of settlement.

PART II.—THE REGULAR POLICE.

4. The essential part of the recommendations of the Committee for the improvement of the Regular Police is, that no officers inferior in rank to Sub-

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Inspectors should be employed in the investigation of criminal cases, and that head-constables, whose number would be greatly reduced, should be confined to work of a less responsible nature. Sir Charles Elliott has accepted this principle and has determined to carry it out as far as possible, though he thinks that there may be some places in which the amount of reported crime is so small as not to warrant the employment of a Sub-Inspector. The Committee did not fully work out the details of the scheme recommended by them, but it appears from a statement attached to the report that it practically amounted to little more than the substitution of a Sub-Inspector wherever there is now an investigating head-constable. The cost of this would be prohibitive in the present state of the finances. The Government of India, in their proposals for the next financial contract, have intimated that they will not allow anything on the score of the improvements in the police beyond a sum of Rs. 1,71,417 already sanctioned on account of constables as will be described below. Consequently any additional cost to be provided for, from the Provincial revenues can only be available during the later years of the contract, and any improvement now made involving an increase of cost will have to be made by reduction in some other direction. Now there appears to be little doubt that by judicious redistribution of the station staff, and improvement in the method of investigating, a considerable reduction can be made in the number of officers required for investigating duty. This will allow of many head constables being abolished and additional Sub-Inspectors being appointed in their places; but the Lieutenant-Governor finds it impossible to work out the details of this change without local enquiry, as the strength of the machinery to be employed in investigating crime must depend not merely on the arithmetical figures of crime to be investigated but also on local characteristics and peculiarities, on the class of crime most prevalent, and to some extent on the area to be supervised and on the density of population. The Lieutenant-Governor has therefore found it necessary to appoint a Committee composed of Mr. H. J. S. Cotton, Financial Secretary to Government as President, and of Mr. J. C. Veasey, Inspector-General, and Mr. Knyvett, District Superintendent of Police, to work out for each district the number of Sub-Inspectors required, and the changes in the distribution of the force which have become necessary. Mr. Henry, Officiating Inspector-General, will assist in making the enquiries, and will be present at the meetings of the Committee when his other duties permit him. Mr. Knyvett will act as Secretary to the committee.

5. This Committee will also frame rules for the appointment of Sub-Inspectors and for their subsequent promotion. They will consider whether first appointment should not be made to depend to some extent on the result of competitive examination, and it has been suggested that the following classes should be allowed to compete:—

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(a) Candidates who have passed the F. A. examination of the Calcutta University, or who have received a certificate of proficiency from a Police training institution, such as that of Mr. Ballard, a retired Inspector of Police, recognized by Government, and who also passed a physical standard and riding examination.

(b) Head-constables and writer-constables who have been recommended by Magistrates for practical success in the detection of crime and as possessing really high qualities of intelligence, activity and honesty.

5. Certain questions connected with boat establishments and river patrols, which also need further elucidation, have been referred to the Committee now appointed.

6. The Committee recommended that the pay of the lowest grade of Inspectors should be raised from Rs. 110, to Rs. 150 that the pay of the lowest grade of Sub-Inspectors should be raised from Rs. 30 to Rs. 40, and that of the highest grade from Rs. 80 to Rs. 100, the pay of the intermediate grades being also raised. The Lieutenant-Governor does not consider that sufficient evidence has been produced to show the necessity of this increase, while its cost would make it impossible at present even if reason for it had been shown. The officers in the lowest grade of Sub-Inspectors will, under the future arrangements, be considered to be on probation, their duties and powers will be necessarily limited, and the Lieutenant-Governor considers the pay of Rs. 30 to be sufficient in the circumstances.

7. The Committee propose that the four grades of head-constables on Rs. 10, Rs. 15, Rs. 20 and Rs. 25 should be altered to three grades, Rs. 15, Rs. 20, and Rs. 25. Sir Charles Elliott accepts the argument put forward that, as the first grade constable draws Rs. 9 per mensem and may have an additional Re. 1 as good conduct allowance, the minimum pay of a head-constable should be more than Rs. 10. In view of the fact that head-constables are not ordinarily to investigate cases, His Honor has determined that three grades on Rs. 12, Rs. 15, and Rs. 20 will be sufficient.

8. The Lieutenant-Governor has already carried out the recommendations of the Committee for increasing the pay and allowances of constables on the ground that the standard of wages has risen generally amongst the labouring and lower classes throughout these Provinces, but especially in Bengal Proper, and there is in consequence difficulty in enlisting suitable recruits and keeping them afterwards. Sir Charles Elliott therefore agreed to the proposal to fix the pay of the lowest grade of constables in the Presidency, Burdwan, Rajshahye, Dacca, and Chittagong Divisions at Rs. 7 instead of the former rate, Rs. 6, and has also done away with the deduction of 2 pice in the rupee on account of the Superannuation Fund. He has also sanctioned the grant of a free kit to recruits on entering the service, and an increase to the former clothing allowances. These concessions, which involve the additional cost of Rs. 1,71,417 per annum, were brought into force with the consent of the Government of India from the 1st July last.

9. The questions connected with Reserves were not dealt with fully by the Police Committee. They, however, advised the Government to substitute in the special reserves of Dumka, Bhagalpur, and Dacca military titles such as sepoy, havildar jamadar, and, subadar, for the civil designations of constable, head-constable, sub-inspector and inspector. This has met the Lieutenant-Governor's approval, and it has been embodied with other more important matters in a draft Bill called the Bengal Military Police Bill, framed upon the lines of the Burma Military Police Act, 1888, which has been forwarded to the Government of India for sanction to its introduction into the Bengal Legislative Council. In 1887 the Government of India drew the attention of this Government to the desirability of re-organizing the district reserves with a view to rendering them more efficient in the repression of local disturbances, especially during religious celebrations. Sir Stuart Bayley was in favour of an increase in these reserves, but found that there were financial objections in the way. Orders

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on the subject were received from the Government of India in March 1889, but the district reserves are still in an unsatisfactory state. Sir Charles Elliott thinks that an opportunity has now presented itself in the proposed reorganization of the staff of the police, and the consequent reduction in some of the smaller stations, to withdraw a sufficient number of men from mofussil work to be formed in an efficiently drilled force that may be ready to put down disturbances of any emergency, and has directed the Committee which has now been formed to consider this question fully.

PART III.—CRIMINAL COURTS.

10. The suggestions made in the Report under this head are less definite than under the two other heads, and some difficulty has been found to give practical effect to them. Such action as it has been possible for Government to take upon the measures advocated has already been taken.

11. The Committee ascribe the defects in the working of the courts to the insufficient supervision exercised by the superior courts over subordinate Magistrates. They consider that the faults of the majority of such Magistrates lie chiefly in fear of responsibility, dilatoriness and want of thoroughness. They set forth instances of the superficiality and want of method which is observed on all sides. They point out that witnesses are detained day after day, and are made to attend again and again after long intervals to the great inconvenience of themselves and to the great prejudice of the administration of justice. They say that many Magistrates do not understand that it is their duty to exhaust every source of enquiry that may appear available, and to make good the deficiencies in the evidence presented in court, but are under the erroneous impression that they have only to adjudicate upon such matters as the contending parties or the police choose to lay before them. They assert that cases are not infrequently committed to the Sessions without any real necessity, because the Magistrate will not take it upon him to exercise his own judgment. In order to correct these evils, they urged that District Magistrates should exercise greatly increased supervision over Subordinate Magistrates, and, while avoiding interference with the judicial discretion of such Magistrates, should endeavour to secure punctuality of attendance, method, regularity, promptitude, and general efficiency in the disposal of business, and, when necessary, should assist their subordinates by judicious criticism and advice. The Lieutenant-Governor has accepted generally the recommendations of the Committee, and rules (Circular No. 3,060 J. dated 5th August 1890) have been laid down to give effect to them. A fortnightly register showing the number of undertrial prisoners is to be submitted to the District Magistrate from each subsidiary jail. The District Magistrate is directed to inspect once a week the trial register of each subordinate Magistrate at head-quarters, sending for particular records, calling for explanation, or passing other orders when necessary. A statement is to be

sent from each court away from head-quarters containing extracts from the trial register, showing each case which has been remanded more than three times or has been pending more than a month. District Magistrates are also, if possible, once a quarter, without previous warning, to send for and inspect the records of the last six cases disposed of by each subordinate Magistrate. A manual of inspection is under preparation, embodying the principles which have been laid down by the Committee, and accepted by the Lieutenant-Governor.

12. The Committee in commending the system of competitive examination for the recruitment of the Subordinate Executive Service, which has been in force for the last few years, recommend that the Evidence Act should be added to the subjects to be taken up for examination. The suggestion has been acted upon, and the notification of the 10th October 1891, prescribing the list of subjects for the next examination, contains this Act, together with other enactments usually required by Magistrates among the subjects for examination.

13. The Committee suggest that in order that subordinate Magistrates may feel that their success depends as much upon attention to their judicial work as to their executive work, their merits should be reported on by the Sessions Judges as well as by District Officers. The rule prescribing this has lately been revived by the High Court, and Government has received a copy of all the reports for last year.

14. It is pointed out in the Report that the failure in Sessions trials often results from the delay in hearing the cases. The Committee state their opinion that such trials should be held as soon as possible after the occurrence, and propose that a system of holding monthly sessions should be introduced as far as practicable. Other Governments have been consulted concerning their practice, and the High Court have been asked their advice in the matter.

15. Another cause of failure of justice at the Sessions Courts, alluded to in the Report, is the imperfect way in which many cases are committed by Magistrates. The Committee advise that powers of commitment be entrusted only to selected Magistrates of the second class and not to all as at present. The Lieutenant-Governor has accepted this advice, and has cancelled the general order of 1874, and after consulting local officers has vested this power in selected officers only.

16. The Committee consider that the Crown should be represented in all important appeals, and point out that the number of successful appeals notwithstanding that the number of appeals lodged increases, remains very small. The rules on the subject seem sufficient to the Lieutenant-Governor as any Court against whose order an appeal is lodged can apply for the Government Pleader to appear to support the order. In a recent circular the Lieutenant-Governor has prescribed a form by which the subordinate Court is invited to state when notice of appeal is sent, whether the Government Pleader would appear or not.

17. The Committee point out that the Government Pleader is not always the best man at the local bar or the best man available. They suggest that the Judge and the Magistrate should always be consulted before a Government Pleader is appointed. The Legal Remembrancer, with whom the nomination lies, has been

requested to consult these officers always in future. And Sir Charles Elliott has under consideration a suggestion to appoint Government pleaders for a term of years, instead of for life, as is practically now the case.

18. The Committee recommend that both in head-quarters and at subdivisions the best local legal practitioners should be engaged as legal advisers to the police and as public prosecutors before Magistrates. The scheme which would cost a very large sum is not fully developed. In many places suitable advisers could not be obtained, and Sir Charles Elliott doubts if cases would be much improved by legal advice given to the police during investigations: if advice is required, the District or Subdivisional Magistrate is the proper person to apply to. The Lieutenant-Governor is, however, of opinion that more attention should be devoted to the prosecution of police cases, and desires to relieve Court Sub-Inspectors of much of their routine work to allow them time for this important duty. The experiment of transferring a large portion of the Court Sub-Inspectors work to the Magistrate's office, and setting the Court Sub-Inspector free from the multifarious details which now engross his time to prepare cases and conduct prosecutions, will be tried for six months in six selected districts. The officiating Inspector-General has selected for this experiment the districts of the 24-Pergunnahs, Mymensingh, Backergunge, Mozufferpur, Patna, and Monghyr, and he expects to have all arrangements, completed by the 1st of January. His Honor has sanctioned a suggestion by Mr. Henry that hereafter Court Sub-Inspectors shall draw Rs. 20 at head-quarters and Rs. 10 at subdivisions more than their grade pay in order to attract the best men to Court work. Special rules will be framed for the appointment of this class of Sub-Inspectors in order to secure superior knowledge of law and procedure.

19. The Report deals with great delays which frequently occur in disposing of cases instituted under section 110, Criminal Procedure Code, which are known as "bad livelihood" cases, and it is advised that Magistrates should be allowed perfect freedom of action, and the existing rules which direct cases of bad livelihood should be taken up in the village where the accused resides, should be abolished as being the cause of much of the delay observed. The Lieutenant-Governor dealt with the subject in a circular (Circular No. 3 J. D. dated 4th June 1891) in June last, in which it was pointed out that the orders directing local enquiry were issued by Sir Ashley Eden, who in 1877 had found that there had been an indiscriminate use of the provisions regarding security and had little doubt that a number of innocent persons had been committed to jail upon mere hearsay evidence. Sir Charles Elliott, in modifying so much of the previous orders as prescribed a local trial in every case, and in leaving the matter to the discretion of the Magistrate, only did so because he prefers a speedy trial in Court to a long deferred one on the spot, and expressed his hope that Magistrates would try such cases as far as possible in or near the villages where the accused persons reside.

20. *Conclusion.*—So much has been done. The passing of the Chaudhary Bill and the re-organization of the Police staff are the chief objects which now remain to be effected. Sir Charles Elliott trusts that their accomplishment will be seen at the end of the present cold season.

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JOHN EDGAR.

Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

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The Commissioners of Calcutta will repay the Municipal six per cent Loan of 1871 on the 1st January 1892, the date when the Loan falls due. Debenture-holders are requested to surrender their Debentures at the Municipal Office on or before the 31st December 1891. Interest on the above Loan will be paid up to 31st December 1891, and will cease after that date.

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Government Notification

Calcutta Gazette—December 16, 1891.

GENERAL.—Mr. E. G. Colvin is allowed leave up to the 5th December next, under Article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved of his present appointment as Officiating Postmaster-General, Bengal.

Mr. Colvin is also appointed to act until further orders, in the first grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors with effect from the latter date.

Mr. E. G. Colvin, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is allowed leave for one month, under Articles 313 and 314 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension of the leave granted to him under the order of the 24th ultimo.

Babu Peary Mohun Bose, Sub-Deputy Collector, is appointed to be a Probationary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, but will continue to be employed on settlement duty until further orders.

Babu Saroda Proshad Sirkar, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is appointed to perform the functions of a Collector under Section 4 of Act VII (B C) of 1880 in the Rajshahye District.

Babu Purna Chunder Chatterji, Deputy Collector, is appointed to perform the functions of a Collector under Section 4 of Act VII (B C) of 1880 in the District of the 24-Pergunnahs.

Mr. G. M. Currie, Magistrate and Collector, on leave, is appointed to be Magistrate and Collector of Jessore. This cancels the orders of the 23rd ultimo appointing Mr. W. Fiddian, Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Howrah, to be Magistrate and Collector of Jessore, and Mr. G. M. Currie to be Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Howrah.

Mr. S. C. Roberts, Deputy Revenue Superintendent, Orissa Canals, is appointed to be a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the third grade, with effect from the 15th September 1891. He will continue to be employed under the Public Works Department of this Government until further orders.

Babu Purna Chunder Roy, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jehanabad, Hughly, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870 in that Sub-Division.

Mr. W. Maxwell, who has recently been appointed to be a member of the Indian Civil Service, is appointed to be an Assistant Magistrate and Collector in the Burdwan Division, and is posted to the head-quarters station of the Midnapur District.

Mr. C. H. Bompas, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Midnapur, is appointed to have charge of the Contai Sub-Division of that District.

Babu Dino Nath Dey, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Contai, Midnapur, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Rungpur District.

Mr. H. H. Heard, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Kendrapara, Cuttack, is appointed to have charge of the Jaipore Sub-Division of that District.

Babu Monmohun Roy, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jaipur, Cattack, is transferred to the head-quarters station of that District.

Mr. H. A. Boyd, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Cuttack, is appointed to have charge of the Kendrapara Sub-Division of that District.

The Revd. Alexander Ferrier, Senior Chaplain of the Church of Scotland, Calcutta, is appointed to be Honorary Chaplain of the Cossipur Artillery Volunteers, vice the Revd. J. Lillie, deceased.

Mr. C. M. W. Brett is appointed temporarily to be Additional District and Sessions Judge for the Districts of Dacca, Jessore with Khulna and Backergunge, and is posted to Jessore until further orders.

Babu Purnmeshwar Prosad, substantive *pro tempore* Sub-Deputy Collector and Superintendent of Distillery, Shahabad, is allowed leave for three months, under Article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Babu Ram Churn Bose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, 24-Pergunnahs, is allowed furlough for six months, under Article 371 of the Civil Service Regulations.

The services of Babu Bejoy Krishna Bose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave, are placed at the disposal of the Revenue Department of this Government for employment on settlement duty in the Darjiling District.

Mr. H. Wheeler, who has recently been appointed to be a member of the Indian Civil Service, is appointed to be an Assistant Magistrate and Collector of the Bhau-gulpur Division, and is posted to the head quarters station of the Bhaugulpur District.

Mr. H. G. W. Herron, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, has been granted by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India an extension of leave for three months on medical certificate.

Mr. A. W. Mackie, District and Sessions Judge of Rungpore, is allowed furlough for nine months, under Article 340 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 17th March 1892.

Mr. T. W. Richardson is appointed to act, until further orders, in the first grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, with effect from the forenoon of the 16th ultimo, the date on which he was relieved of his appointment as Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Lohardugga, and is posted to the head-quarters station of that District, with effect from the date on which he joined the appointment.

Mr. Ahsanuddin Ahmad, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Manbhum, is allowed leave for two months and ten days, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 3rd January 1892, or any subsequent date on which he may avail himself of it.

M. W. C. Taylor, Special Deputy Collector for the purpose of acquiring lands for the East Coast Railway, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870 in the District of Cuttack.

In modification of the orders of the 11th August and the 16th October last, Mr. F. W. Badcock, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Burdwan, is allowed leave for forty five days, under article 308 of Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 4th September 1891.

Babu Pramada Nath Mukerji is appointed to be a Probationary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector and is posted to the head-quarters station of the District of Dacca.

Mr. C. W. Bolton, Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, is confirmed in that appointment, with effect from the 3rd instant, vice Mr. C. E. Buckland.

Babu Bhubandra Nath Roy, Sub-Deputy Collector, Nilphamari, Rungpore, is allowed leave for three months under Article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the afternoon of the 30th October 1891.

Police.—Mr. H. E. C. Paget, District Superintendent of Police, reported his departure from India on furlough on the 21st ultimo.

Registration.—Moulvi Golam Nabi is appointed to be Joint Sub-Registrar of Bagirhat at Kachua, in the District of Khulna.

JUDICIAL.—Babu Suruth Kumar Ghosal is appointed to act as a Munsiff in the District of Hughly, to be ordinarily stationed at Uluberia, during the absence, on deputation of Babu Kanty Chunder Mukerji or until further orders.

Babu Suruth Kumar Ghosal is vested with the powers of a Judge of a Court of small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 50 within the local limits of the Uluberiah Munsiff.

Mr. J. Lambert, C. I. E., Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, is appointed, under Section 18 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, to be a Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta.

Mr. F. J. Marsden, Chief Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta, and Mr. Syed Amir Hossein, C.I.E., Presidency Magistrate Northern Division, Calcutta, are vested with the power under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Mr. W. Maxwell, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Midnapur, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

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